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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Court delivers 'huge' victory for state partners

By Louis Weisberg

WIG Staff Writer

MADISON — The Wisconsin Supreme Court has rejected a lawsuit seeking to declare the state's domestic partner registry unconstitutional.

In an unusual move, lawyers for Wisconsin Family Action had filed the case directly with the state's high court rather than a lower court of jurisdiction. The Christian-right group said that "it was important to act quickly," because the registry violates a 2006 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage or civil unions.

Supporters of the registry argue that domestic partnerships are not the equivalent

Partner page 5



Still 'out' front

After keeping LGBT rights on Congress' radar for a decade, Tammy Baldwin says change is finally coming.

By Louis Weisberg

WIG Staff Writer

MADISON — Shortly after joining Congress, Tammy Baldwin took her partner to an official event and gave her a "spouse pin" to wear. A woman approached Baldwin's partner, Lauren Azar, as she stood at a buffet table and asked, "Oh, who's your husband?"

"Lauren said, 'Tammy Baldwin,'" Baldwin remembers. "And the woman sort of sputtered and lost it and put down her plate and ran away."

That was probably the most awkward social situation she's encountered on the job, Baldwin says, despite being the first and only open lesbian elected to Congress.

Baldwin page 7

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PHOTO: JASON SMITH

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff and
Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writers

'MAKING WHOOPEE'

While we were away... No, wait, before WiG arrived... A gay couple, a game show and a network made history. Former "Star Trek" star George Takei — he was Mr. Sulu — and husband Brad Altman competed as the first openly gay contestants on an episode of "The Newlywed Game" on the Game Show Network. Takei, commenting on the historic television event, said, "We're boldly going where no one has gone before."

CHRISTIANS RALLY FOR HATE

The Christian Anti-Defamation Commission demonstrated outside the Justice Department to pro-

test the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, signed into law last month. Although the law only applies to violent crime, the pastors behind the event contend it encroaches on their freedoms of religion and speech. Organizers railed against homosexuality "to show ministers and Christians that they are free to do the same."

SILENT BEAUTY TREATMENT

Carrie Prejean, the former beauty queen and current spokesperson for the National Organization for Marriage, gave CNN host Larry King the silent treatment on the air after he asked why she'd dropped her \$1-million lawsuit against the Miss California Pageant. In response, Prejean removed her microphone and sat smiling and staring into the

camera for an awkwardly long time.

Prejean abandoned her legal case after learning that TMZ had obtained a sex tape she made as a teen. She claimed the pageant discriminated against her because of her fundamentalist Christian religion and that it violated her privacy by disclosing she'd had breast-augmentation surgery.

NOM president Maggie Gallagher has hailed the anti-gay crusading Prejean as the "future of our movement, and the future of America."

BUT HOW WAS THE FOOD?

A straight Italian couple say their vacation was ruined because they weren't warned they'd be sailing on a ship hosting Italy's first all-gay cruise. London's Daily

Mail reports the couple is suing for reimbursement of their \$4,500 fare, which they paid for with loyalty points from a supermarket.

According to the couple's attorney, the suit is not motivated by homophobia but by "lost satisfaction" and "embarrassment." The couple claim they ran into several acquaintances on board whom they didn't know were gay, which made everyone feel uncomfortable.

None of the outed gays, however, have taken legal action.

HE'S TO BE IN THE BUFF

Levi Johnston, father of Sarah Palin's grandson, said he'll train three hours a day, six days a week to get ready for a shoot for Playgirl — now solely an online publication. Johnston, who broke up with Bristol Palin several months after the birth of



Cover girl: Marge Simpson on the cover of Playboy.

their son, Tripp, works out at an Anchorage gym owned by former Mr. Alaska competitor Marvin Jones.

SHE'S IN THE BUFF, SORT OF

Playboy promised: Springfield's sexiest celebrity reveals all in its November cover story about the "Devil in Marge Simpson." Simpson posed nude for the cover,

but sat tastefully behind a chair with the iconic bunny logo. Asked by Homer what hubby Homer said, Simpson replied, "Homer said he was intrigued because he had never heard of your magazine. The notion of women posing in the buff was completely foreign to him. Wasn't it sweet of him to lie?"

FOR THE RECORD

Ted Haggard, the founder and former leader of the New Life Church who resigned amid scandal in 2006, wants to return to ministry. He told the Colorado Springs Independent, "...I want to be the man that I am, I want to be true to myself, and that's why I haven't let the others put me in a box. Oprah really wanted me to be gay or straight or something, and I just said, I am not going to fit into your boxes."

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MILWAUKEE GAZE

Claiming the past UWM Libraries takes LGBT history out of the attics, into the record.

By Louis Weisberg

WiG Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE — Until recently, most of LGBT life was lived in the closets and the shadows — unobserved and undocumented. But the UWM Libraries is on a mission to reclaim the lost decades of Milwaukee's LGBT history and make them accessible to researchers, as well as the public.

The libraries' LGBT Collection is a trove of pre- and post-Stonewall publications, documents and memorabilia. It includes autobiographies, novels, personal correspondence, scrapbooks and photo albums, oral histories, organizational records, videotapes and broadcast recordings.

From the lurid covers of 1950s-era lesbian pulp fiction and coded beefcake maga-

MEET THE CHALLENGE

A challenge grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund will match every dollar donated up to \$5,000. To contribute, contact Susan Modder at 414-229-2811 or semodder@uwm.edu. Donations of materials are also welcome.

zines to the diaries of activists such as former U.S. Army Sgt. Miriam Ben Shalom, the collection tells the story of a thriving subculture and its journey to empowerment.

"This addresses a significant gap in the historical record,"



PHOTOS: MAX THOMSEN

The UWM Libraries celebrates its LGBT collection Nov. 4: LEFT: Miriam Ben Shalom and her partner Karen Weiss. ABOVE: Michael Doyle, head of the libraries' archives department.

UWM director of libraries Ewa Barczyk told supporters of the collection at a private Nov. 4 thank-you event. "No other cultural institution was actively engaged in document-

ing this activity. It adds to the richness of our collection."

Michael Doyle began pro-actively collecting LGBT materials after being named head of the libraries' archives

department in 2003. He said his efforts are an outgrowth of the libraries' commitment to documenting historically underrepresented populations.

The collection also fits with the libraries' goal of building bridges between the university and the people of Milwaukee, said Max Yela, who Archives page 5

The Twelve Days of Christmas



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Volleyball league draws 100 players

By Paul Masterson

WIG Contributing writer

MILWAUKEE — A shrill whistle blast, the slap of the serve and the rally begins. A “thunk” punctuates each hit of the ball.

It's opening night of the newly organized Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association, which plays Sunday evenings at the Beulah Brinton Community Center in Bay View. The group's 12-week season began Nov. 1.

“Madison had a volleyball league, so I decided to start one here,” said MGVA director Eric Euting. In less than a month, he created a

board and began searching for players.

“Then it just ballooned,” Euting said. “We expected 30 people and got an overwhelming response. One hundred and twenty people registered online.”

According to PR director Justin Wilder, the original intent was to foster community camaraderie and provide another social activity and network. “We already have so many great sports teams in Milwaukee, why not volleyball?” Wilder asked.

Todd Wellman, sponsorship director, approached



PHOTO: MAX THOMSEN

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association: Players meet Sunday evenings at Beulah Brinton Community Center.

bars, businesses and organizations. Club Icon, Mona's, Fi-Med, Boom/Room, Nut Hut, M's, PrideFest and Kruz immediately responded.

“The response was absolutely incredible, beyond expectations,” Wellman said. “It's great to see the community coming together. People are even coming from Kenosha and Oshkosh.”

The players are a diverse mix of students, professionals and representatives from community organizations, including the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Diverse & Resilient, PrideFest and others.

“There's not a lot to do in winter so we sponsored a team,” said Nut Hut owner Michelle Murphy, who attended the league's opening. “We thought it would be fun to get together out-

side the bar. My son, Nick, is playing as well. We have at least one straight guy — it's quite an array. My partner is the cheerleader with the pom-poms.”

Billy Jack Houston, a UWM student, joined the unaffiliated “Team 4.” Houston moved to Milwaukee from South Dakota a year ago. “I wanted to get involved with the community outside of the bar scene,” he said. “I'm a kinda wanna-be jock. Softball teams weren't looking for new players, so I joined volleyball.”

Deon Young, PrideFest's volunteer director, played with the PrideFest Stars, whose members include PrideFest board and production members. “It's a way to continue PrideFest team spirit and promoting PrideFest in a different way,” Young said.



PHOTO: MAX THOMSEN

MGVA players go to the net.

ON THE WEB

www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com. Players and fans can also get MGVA updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Marie Molter joined as a challenge. “I played in high school and college,” she said. “I need to do some exercise, and I don't know a lot of people in the community. My cousin told me about the volleyball league, and I said, ‘If you play, I'll play.’”

Molter and her cousin played for M's team on opening night while her partner sat in the bleachers and enjoyed the game.

Although the teams are full, fans are encouraged to attend. There are opportunities to sub for absent players for a \$5 fee. After substituting six times, players can join in the pool for free.

Games begin Sundays at 5:45 p.m. at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St. After the

games, players, friends and fans socialize at a “volleybar” selected from among the bar sponsors.

Open play is held Fridays from 8-10 p.m. Players can practice, hone their skills or, if a novice, learn the basics. The cost is \$1.50 per hour.

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'A huge victory'

Partner from I

of marriage or civil unions because they provide only 43 protections — compared with the more than 200 received by married couples.

The Supreme Court did not base its rejection on the merits of the case, but instead declined to accept original jurisdiction. WFA has vowed to file the case in a lower court, and it could yet wind up before the state's high justices. The court is split 4-3 in favor of conservatives.

Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger said the supreme court's action is "a huge victory."

"We're very pleased that the 1,200 or so couples who are registered already will continue to receive these protections and that more couples can apply for them. We're ready to continue defending the legislation and we're very confident that we will prevail."

"Because of (this) ruling, Wisconsin's same-sex couples and their families who depend

on domestic partnership protections can take care of each other in times of illness and crisis," said Christopher Clark, senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. Lambda Legal filed to intervene in the case on behalf of Fair Wisconsin.

"Even with the discriminatory amendment excluding same-sex couples from marriage, the Wisconsin Constitution does not prevent enactment of laws that offer basic decency and security for couples," Clark said.

Same-sex couples who register as domestic partners receive inheritance and survivor protections, family and medical leave, and hospital visitation rights. They also can refuse to testify against a partner or former partner concerning private communications that occurred during their relationships, and they are exempt from real-estate fees for transferring property to each other.

Fair Wisconsin estimates there are 15,000

same-sex couples living in Wisconsin.

About a week after the Supreme Court declined to hear the domestic partner registry case, it heard oral arguments in a case challenging the constitutionality of the amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions.

Plaintiff William McConkey, a political science instructor from Baileys Harbor, claims the referendum on the amendment illegally put two issues to voters at the same time — both whether to ban gay marriage and whether to outlaw civil unions.

A Dane County judge dismissed the case last year, and McConkey appealed. Last month, the Madison-based District 4 Court of Appeals asked the high court to take the case immediately because of its statewide significance.

A decision in the case is not anticipated before next spring, Balinger said.

History lies buried in forgotten boxes

Archives from 3

heads the libraries' special collections. His department is a partner in the effort, which is supported by an endowment created by Joe Pabst through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund.

The search for Milwaukee's LGBT history has turned Doylen into a sort of Indiana Jones of the city's basements and attics, where much of LGBT history lies buried in forgotten boxes. Scoring an acquisition can demand fast action. Responding to a tip from PrideFest staffers, Doylen narrowly saved the entire archives of the Cream City Business Association from the garbage bin.

Most of the collection, however, has come from individuals who recognize they have something of historical importance and are willing to share it. "We wouldn't have this collection if people weren't willing to hand over their personal records," Doylen said.

The collection is gaining national attention. Its digi-



IMAGES: COURTESY UWM LIBRARIES/LGBT COLLECTION

Items from the LGBT Collection at the UWM Libraries.

ON THE WEB

www4.uwm.edu/libraries/special/collections/lgbt_studies/lgbt_collection.cfm

talized holdings of the publications and broadcasts of the Gay People's Union, a 1970s UWM student organization, recently received a "highly recommended" rating from the American Libraries Association and the Association of College Research Libraries. The GPU materials are online at digi-coll.library.wisc.edu/GPU/.

While much of the collection demonstrates how

much things have changed, it's also a reminder of how much they haven't. At the Nov. 4 event, Doylen played audio from a 1971 broadcast of GPU's Gay Perspective, a groundbreaking WZMF radio program. The topic was same-sex marriage, and the program's host focused on the same arguments for full inclusion that proponents continue making today, nearly four decades later.

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WISCONSIN GAZE

A change of place: Racine's mayor wants more LGBTs in his 'Belle City.'

By **Bruce H. Joffe**
WIG Contributing Writer

RACINE — Gays and gentrification.

Maybe not quite yet like love and marriage, but the two do tend to go together like a horse and carriage when it comes to finding and fixing up urban diamonds in

that LGBTs will see lots of reasons why relocating to Racine is a good thing — for them and for the southeast Wisconsin city.

Suave, debonair and perhaps a bit too good-looking for his own good, the take-charge man in town is seen by some residents as slicker

hood plans into a single road map for rehabbing neighborhoods and industrial sites.

Attracting small- and medium-sized companies that focus on green jobs also appears to be among the new mayor's priorities.

How and where do LGBTs fit within the mayor's plan?

willing to provide ideas and help to mold and bind this city together. I welcome new ideas and people who are willing to challenge — in a positive way — what I am doing," Dickert declares.

With his business and real estate development background, Dickert believes that LGBTs can contribute to his city's rise and top off its drooping bottom line.

Some locals see this as

ual diversity and inclusivity within his community?

As befits any whose purported calling is the common good, the man mines his answer in politically correct terms: "I believe it's time to stop judging others and time to start working together for a better Racine," he says. "As I stated during my campaign, the only thing I will discriminate against is



News from
Around
the State

such groups as the Human Rights Campaign for its dedication to diversity and LGBT causes add to the balance sheet.

But is that enough? Is that ample reason for LGBTs to take a gamble, betting that this rough-and-tumble town will welcome them and be a good investment both financially and socially?

"With its vibrant community, wonderful housing stock and cultural diversity to be proud of, Racine is a location that rivals any in the world," the mayor argues. "With our lake, river, and downtown, this is the place to be."

If that's still not enough motivation to move households and minions, Dickert underscores his hubris with a bit more humility: "I also believe, if people see the new direction we are taking the city — along with my commitment to building up our cultural opportunities — I hope (those inside and out of) the community sees as bright a future here as I do."

Bruce Joffe is director of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin in Racine/Kenosha and an associate professor at Carthage College.



PHOTO: RACINE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
Party on the Pavement in Racine.

the rough.

Asbury Park, N.J. Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. Boystown in Chicago. The Oak Lawns/Cedar Springs area of Dallas. They all are among the neighborhoods where gay people have settled to restore homes — increasing property values and civic pride in the process.

If the Belle City's new mayor has his way, we soon may be able to add Racine to that list of LGBT-friendly locations.

Mayor John Dickert hopes

than hair gel, while others — especially those new to the area — hope he and his "Ten Year Plan" can redeem and resurrect Racine, bringing about the city's salvation.

In his quest to turn Racine into a "top 10" city, Dickert plans to overhaul the city's housing codes, departments and programs. Parks are important to him, too, and he's hoping to turn Racine's parks system into one of the finest in the nation.

He wants to blend the city's five divergent neighbor-

Queer pioneers have a habit of turning the urban depressed and dilapidated into (ad)ventures and destinations. Especially when the real estate has location, location, location. Racine's not quite the epicenter of Chicago and Milwaukee, but it's close enough to each to enjoy the best of both while living day-to-day in a place peppered by independent chef-owned and operated eateries, clubs, gyms galore, shopping, its own delicious brand of squarely cut pizza and Danish Kringle, not to mention an LGBT center.

Racine's mayor is hoping the city's demographics

and psychographics — plus its culture and architectural assets — will make the city into an alluring neighborhood reflective of a changing gay-straight dynamic that's socio-economically charged.

Racine has a resurgent downtown that's become a fun place of festivals and festivities on an almost weekly basis. From "First Friday" extravaganzas to "Starving Artist" expositions, gallery nights and bands playing at Monument Square, the city's downtown has undergone a dramatic and vibrant transformation in a relatively short time. Quite a few businesses are gay-owned or gay-

friendly.

Now, the mayor is hoping the same thing will happen elsewhere in Racine. Especially if gay people take Racine seriously as a place to stay.

One such place already appealing to the LGBT alphabet soup is the city's Uptown district, designated as its newest "arts and culture" area. It's where the antiques and collectibles shops are, where there are bargains to be found, incentivized, in part, by SC Johnson — the "family" company headquartered in Racine.

— Bruce Joffe

"My plan allows for all Racinians to play a role in our growth," he offers, as if part of a speech. "No one person can do it alone ... and it will take time and energy (to bring about). As I look to rebuild the city, I look to those around me who are

city hall's rotten-to-the-core values, creating a Sodom and Gomorrah out of the rust belt city; others, however, celebrate Dickert's Garden of Eden.

So, just where does Dickert, the man and the mayor, stand in terms of increased sex-

gangs and drug dealers ... and our recent arrests have proven that out."

Racine has charm. It remains relatively cheap. Its commitment to the arts and culture, and a "family" company — SC Johnson — that's been recognized by

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Ten years in Washington have not turned her head

Baldwin from I

"I encounter very little unpleasantness from my colleagues," says Baldwin, who also is the first woman to represent Wisconsin in Congress. "Even the big homophobes are usually very respectful on a personal level.... These are politicians. They don't get elected if they can't to some degree behave themselves with people they differ with, for whatever set of reasons."

Although she's pleased with the polite reception Washington has afforded her, Baldwin has encountered other disappointments. LGBT-rights advocates hailed her victory in 1998 as evidence that open gays could win election to national office. But in the decade that's followed, only one other openly gay candidate, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., has won an open congressional seat.

Today there are only three openly gay House members, the same number as a decade ago. But just as Harvey Milk helped inspire Baldwin's political career, her success continues to provide hope for those who would follow in her footsteps.

"Tammy's story has inspired people from all walks of life to enter politics," Polis says. "She's been a powerful advocate, not just for the LGBT community, but also for health and environmental protections for the people of Wisconsin. The inspiration she provides helped me decide to run for office, and it is an honor now to serve alongside her in the House."

"She has made an enormous difference," says U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, the senior member of Washington's gay triumvirate. "First, by being the first one of us to be 'out' when she was elected. Secondly, she is a very smart legislator, greatly respected by her colleagues, and she has greatly increased our firepower."

Baldwin's fellow congressional Democrats have shown their confidence in her through appointments to key committees, including Energy and Commerce and Judiciary, where she sits on the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Like all elected officials,



PHOTO: JASON SMITH

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, at a coffee shop in Madison: "You can't take the Wisconsin out of this girl," she says.

however, her success is ultimately measured at the polls, where she's consistently earned comfortable re-election margins of more than 60 percent. Baldwin works hard for her constituents and has secured more than \$100 million in federal funding for projects in the 2nd Congressional District.

Although the district includes the state's liberal bulwark of Madison, it poses unique electoral challenges for an avowed progressive. It's a demographic checkerboard — one-third urban, one-third suburban and one-third rural. Her seat was formerly held by a Republican.

Baldwin, a liberal brainiac with an undergraduate degree from Smith College

and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, has surprised her early critics by connecting with her district's dairy farmers and soccer moms, as well as the students and professors who habituate Madison's ubiquitous coffee shops.

She shares her constituents' fundamental Midwestern values of family, patience and hard work, she says. Ten years in Washington have not turned her head. "You can't take the Wisconsin out of this girl," she promises.

PATIENCE AND PRAGMATISM

Baldwin's initial run for Congress was motivated primarily by her passion for health care reform, she says.

She's fired up over the prospect that reform might finally become a reality, even though her goal of a universal, single-payer system is not on the table.

With health care, as with LGBT rights, Baldwin has learned the virtues of political pragmatism. She picks her battles carefully and works for progress "bill by bill."

The patience that Baldwin learned from her grandmother has paid off, she says. During eight of her 10 years in office, Baldwin's legislative potential was severely limited as a member of the minority party, or "the loyal opposition," as she prefers to call it.

"We had a president who wouldn't have signed any (pro-LGBT) legislation into law," she says, which challenged her ability to rally support from even sympathetic colleagues.

But last year, before the Democrats swept to victory, Baldwin joined with Frank to create the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. Its more than 80 members lobby colleagues on legislation such as the recent expansion of federal hate crimes law to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Baldwin had pushed for that law since her earliest days in Congress.

The caucus is currently pressing for a law, supported by President Barack Obama, which would provide domestic partner benefits for the federal government's more than 1.8 million civilian employees. Baldwin is confident the measure soon will pass, as will the long-sought Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

THE ROOKIE

Gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis is a Democrat who represents Colorado's 2 Congressional District.

He won election to the House last November.

Polis is an entrepreneur who has founded several Internet companies.

Polis serves on the House Education and Labor Committee and the Rules Committee. He is a charter member and vice-chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition, the chair of the Immigration Task Force of the Progressive Caucus, and a member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

THE VETERAN

Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank is a Democrat who

represents Massachusetts' 4th Congressional District.

He has been serving in Congress since 1981, and currently is the chair of the Financial Services Committee.

The Almanac of American Politics has said of Frank: "Frank listens to others' arguments and engages them in his inimitable rapid-fire delivery. In the 2006 Washingtonian poll of staffers, he was voted the brainiest, funniest and most eloquent member of the House. He is admired even by Republicans for his intellectual rigor and honesty; at the same time he is a wily political operator. He does not profess to be a political theoretician, though few in the House exceed him as such." — Lisa Neff

None of these measures would even be considered, she says, had Republicans remained in control. She describes the attitudinal difference in Washington as "night and day."

Like many LGBT Americans, however, Baldwin has been frustrated by the slow pace of change since Democrats took the reins. But she reminds LGBT critics that her party has had to expend its time and energy on cleaning up the situation they inherited, both at home and abroad. For instance, she's had to deal with such pressing problems as double-digit unemployment in parts of her district.

The president, she adds, can't "just wave a magic wand" and enact his agenda.

What can LGBT individuals do to bring about change?

"It goes back to the essential importance of us coming out," Baldwin says. "And I like to stress not only coming out as individuals but as families."

"In the early days, following the exhortation of Harvey Milk, people came out — but they didn't come out as gay families," she says. "Our movement has focused so much on coming out as individuals that we haven't told the story to America that we're also parts of families and that we form our own families."

Baldwin's own family — that is, she and Azar — has to work at finding time together. In addition to holding greater power and influence, being part of the majority has been more demanding. "You can't get any busier," she says of her current schedule.

Baldwin page 11



HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE — POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The first, since 1997, LGBT political action committee, committed to supporting fair minded pro-LGBT candidates in Wisconsin.

For more information on the fight for full equal rights,
visit our website www.hrlpac.org.

Human Rights League Political Action Committee • 315 W. Court St. #9, Milwaukee, WI 53212 • 414-455-5292 • hrlpac@yahoo.com

{ Editorial }

Barrett's candidacy is welcome

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's decision to run for governor is good news for the LGBT community.

While the mayor has not been out front on LGBT issues like Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley or San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, he has been generally inclusive of the community in recent years. He has shown his symbolic support by marching in the Milwaukee Pride Parade. This fall, he proclaimed Sept. 15 LGBT Center Awareness Day as part of a national campaign to showcase the vital role that our centers play in our lives.

With such actions, Barrett has demonstrated perhaps a new openness to LGBT constituents who were disappointed with his vote for DOMA while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As the mayor was weighing his decision to enter the race, he sent a congratulatory letter welcoming Wisconsin Gazette to the local media scene. We hope this signals the direction of his campaign.

Current polls show Barrett neck-and-neck with the front-running Republican in the race, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker. Walker has a lead both in campaign organization and fundraising.

The difference between the two prospective candidates on LGBT issues is stark. Walker has positioned himself as a right-wing social conservative. He recently announced that he would veto a proposed plan to provide health insurance benefits for the domestic partners of county employees, even though the plan has yet to be drafted.

While Barrett has some catching up to do in pulling a campaign together, he is ahead in the critical area of likability. In addition to his straightforward style and the personal warmth he projects, Barrett was internationally acclaimed in August when he was injured while trying to protect a grandmother and a baby from an attack. Barrett has been admirably humble and dismissive of attempts to brand him a hero.

This is not an early endorsement of Barrett. In the coming months, we'll watch to see who else enters the race and the stance that the mayor's gubernatorial campaign takes on LGBT issues. We'll also evaluate the Republican candidates to see how far they're willing to run to the right. Former U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann, the Republican candidate who's second in the latest polls, amassed an extremely anti-gay voting record in Congress.

With Walker and Neumann leading the Republican pack, the entry of an electable Democrat like Barrett is a positive development.

> TAKE ACTION!

On Nov. 5, the Milwaukee County Board voted to draft revisions to the county health plan. The proposal would provide insurance coverage to the partners of unmarried straight county employees, as well as to the same-sex partners of employees. Another vote before July is needed to implement the plan.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call and thank the supervisors who endorsed the proposal: Gerry Broderick (414-278-4237); Toni Clark (414-278-4278); Lynne De Bruin (414-278-4263); Marina Dimitrijevic (414-278-4232); Lee Holloway (414-278-4261); Willie Johnson (414-278-4233); Elizabeth M. Coggs (414-278-4265); Patricia Jursik (414-278-4231); Christopher J. Larson (414-278-4252); Theo Lipscomb (414-278-4257); Johnny Thomas (414-278-4259); John Weishan Jr. (414-278-4255); Peggy West (414-278-4269).

Call and ask opposing supervisors to reconsider their votes: Mark Borkowski (414-278-4253); Paul Cesarz (414-278-4267); Michael Mayo Sr. (414-278-4241); Joseph Rice (414-278-4243); Joe Sanfelippo (414-278-4247); Jim "Luigi" Schmitt (414-278-4273).

{ Letters }

APPLAUDING INITIATIVE

Wisconsin's LGBT communities need a great deal more visibility if we are to reach our potential as vibrant, contributing members of the cities and towns in which we live. Our diversity is our strength; our invisibility is our challenge.

Wisconsin Gazette promises to be a community resource and asset, one that will help promote our events, recognize our successes and explore our challenges.

Connexus, Milwaukee's only program that specifically addresses the social and educational aspirations of African American LGBT people, applauds your initiative in launching WiG. We look forward to a long professional relationship with you and congratulate you on your first issue.

Jamin Mahan and Janice Warren, Connexus Co-Chairs

MILWAUKEE WELCOME

Greetings. On behalf of the city of Milwaukee, I would like to extend my congratulations for the publication of the Wisconsin Gazette. A free and independent press is a cornerstone of democ-

racy, and Milwaukee's diverse and robust media have contributed greatly to our city's growth, integrity and quality of life. Your opinions and perspectives are certainly welcomed additions.

Once again, congratulations to everyone involved with WiG. I look forward to your first issue, and I wish you a long and successful run.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

ON THE LANDSCAPE

On behalf of the Milwaukee Police Department, I welcome the Wisconsin Gazette to the city's media landscape.

The LGBT community is a valued constituency that adds to the cultural richness of our city. Increased communication makes us all safer, because we are better informed about each other's challenges and goals. When the police department is able to read the pulse of our communities, our ability to perform our duties is enhanced.

We enjoy a productive working relationship with all our constituencies, including Milwaukee's LGBT communi-

ty. We have worked together to address issues of concern and I am proud of the open dialogue that has been developed among us.

I wish you well in this important endeavor.

Milwaukee Chief of Police Edward A. Flynn

BIG HELLO

Congratulations on the inaugural edition of WiG!

The opening of this newspaper is a great milestone and I am especially enthusiastic to see a newspaper catering to Wisconsin's vibrant LGBT community.

There is a great tradition of LGBT newspapers in local communities reporting on businesses, social issues, and political debate (my personal favorite).

From statewide issues such as civil rights, HIV, substance abuse, and other LGBT health-related issues, to local issues like providing domestic partner benefits to county employees, there are compelling stories to be told and LGBT voices to be heard. Good luck!

Wisconsin State Sen. Tim Carpenter

More Letters on page 29

Wisconsin Gazette .com

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Our mission

To inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news and commentary, as well as coverage of political and cultural issues.

Interesting again

For many gay people, this year began with high hopes following the election and inauguration of President Barack Obama, who had promised “change we can believe in.” But the enthusiasm and hope seemed gradually to deflate with the passage of weeks and months in which Obama concerned himself with the economic crisis, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the continuing debate over health care. There seemed no movement on gay-related issues.

But then toward the end of the year there were signs that gays had not been entirely forgotten. The ban on HIV-infected visitors and immigrants was lifted. Health benefits for domestic partners would be free of federal taxes under legisla-

tion proposed in Congress. The Justice Department announced that it would not prosecute people for possession of medical marijuana in states that permitted it. And a gay-inclusive hate crimes provision was slipped into a defense authorization bill.

Except for the first, there is little evidence pointing to Obama as the person prompting any of these changes, but most of them certainly would not have happened under President George W. Bush or under John McCain, if he had been elected president in 2008.

Although gay organizations have been pushing for hate crimes legislation for years, from what I have seen the issue never seemed to catch fire with the gay population at large. The chief issues for

Opinion

BY PAUL VARNELL

gays have become the irrational and insulting gay exclusion policy of the military and the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act barring federal recognition and benefits for legally married same-sex partners. Obama says he opposes both policies, but so far there has been no evidence of movement on either issue.

The narrow loss of marriage rights in Maine felt like a kick in the stomach. But the narrow victory of a measure in Washington state to expand domestic partner rights was a comparative bright spot. In that connection, let us not forget that the nation's

largest Lutheran body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, last summer voted to approve the ordination of people in same-sex relationships. This is good news even for nonbelievers, because America is still a largely religious country and the culture often takes its cues from what its churches say and do. So this is an important move toward the legitimacy of gay relationships.

What now?

You would think that 31 straight losses in votes on gay marriage would be a clue to gay activists, and the victory for domestic partnerships would suggest a path to follow. But now activists in New York state are still trying to persuade the legislature to approve gay marriage

there. A final positive vote looks increasingly doubtful. I'd like gay marriage as much as the next gay person, but it doesn't look like it is going to happen anywhere else for a few years. Americans seem less opposed to civil unions. So maybe we should take what we can get right now while we continue to work for our ultimate goal.

Americans' attitudes toward gays have moved slowly in a positive direction by about one half to one percent a year for the last several years. In a few years, most states should have public support for most of our goals.

Much of this is the result of the slow replacement of older anti-gay voters by younger, more gay-positive voters.

Unfortunately, there is not much we can do to influence the military's anti-gay policy. The initiative to end “don't ask, don't tell” will probably have to come from within the military itself in signals to Congress. But the military is not immune to the trends in the civilian world, so every gain we make in the civilian sphere ultimately shows up in the military sphere. And the military is not immune to pressure from Congress. So pressuring Congress is one indirect route to follow.

Things have suddenly become interesting again.

Paul Varnell is a longtime columnist. Some of his commentary is posted in the Independent Gay Forum at www.indegayforum.org. He is based in Chicago.

> Heroes and villains



Pabst

HERO

The generosity and seemingly inexhaustible creative energy of Joseph Pabst continue to put Milwaukee's LGBT cultural scene on the national radar. This fall alone, he helped to sponsor the groundbreaking Andy Warhol exhibit at the Milwaukee Museum of Art, was instrumental in organizing yet another successful Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival and backed a challenge grant for the UWM Libraries LGBT Collection.

Want to nominate someone for “Heroes and villains”?
E-mail managingeditor@wisconsinazette.com



Schwarzenegger

VILLAIN

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger earned some reluctant praise because he reluctantly signed some LGBT-friendly legislation earlier this year. But in late October, Schwarzenegger took hard-hitting criticism for correspondence to gay California Assemblymember Tom Ammiano. Close readers of the letter complaining about lawmakers overlooking important issues to pass unnecessary bills — the Milk Day legislation, for one — will notice that the first letter on each line in the body of the document together spell “Fuck you.”

Administration goes AWOL

Opinion

BY JENNIFER VANASCO

President Barack Obama was AWOL when it came to the marriage vote in Maine and the partnership vote in Washington state.

The DNC was worse, actively working against us by sending out an e-mail to Maine Democrats asking them to campaign for New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine — instead of asking them to man phones in their home state, working for marriage equality.

Despite a supposed commitment to gay civil rights expressed in the DNC platform and by the Obama campaign and administration, there has been relative silence on our issues.

That needs to change.

And thanks to John Aravois and Joe Sudbay, it's about to.

Aravois and Sudbay run the political Web site Americablog and this week, angry about the administration's inaction around Maine, they declared they had enough.

So they are launching a financial boycott of Democrats called “Don't Ask, Don't Give.”

The idea is this: Gays and

lesbians should stop giving money to the DNC and Obama until ENDA passes and “don't ask, don't tell” and DOMA are overturned.

“It's really more of a ‘pause,’” than a boycott,” Aravois and Sudbay say on Americablog.com.

“Boycott sounds so final, and angry. Whereas this campaign is temporary, and is only meant to help some friends — President Obama and the Democratic Party — who have lost their way. We are hopeful that via this campaign, our friends will keep their promises.”

This is exactly the right thing to do.

Americablog lists almost 40 grievances, large and small, against the president, the leader of the Democratic Party. Together, the grievances paint a portrait of a man who is not just refusing to show leadership on our issues — he seems unaware of why our issues are important.

And the DNC, despite including us in the party

platform, seems to be hardly aware that, post-campaign, we exist.

The most powerful tools we have to fight this sort of blindness are money and media attention, and this boycott highlights both, because they get less money but more (negative) media attention.

It's a brilliant strategy.

As Americablog says: “Democratic leaders see the LGBT community as a guaranteed source of cash, regardless of their broken promises. They think we, and those who support us, have nowhere else to go, that there's nothing we can do. It's time to draw our own line in the sand, and use the one thing that matters to the Democratic Party: our money.”

For this strategy to work, we all need to join in on the boycott. First, you should get over to Americablog and sign the pledge form — and stick to it.

But even that's not far enough. The DNC needs to know that this is not laziness. It's not just that the economy is lousy or that we want to spend more money on Christmas presents.

So give as much as you can to a gay activist group, national or local, of your choice, instead. Send in the receipt for the donation to the DNC with a note explaining that your money went elsewhere and why.

Will this hurt Democrats? Will it make it more likely that much more repressive Republicans get back in power? Americablog addresses these types of questions. Their answer is no — I fear that, actually, the answer is yes.

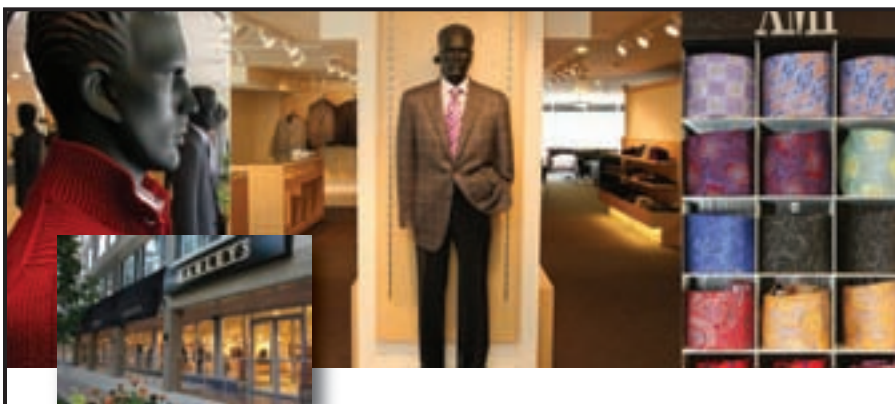
But that's the point.

The DNC and Obama need to start taking us seriously. They will only do that if we start affecting their pocketbook.

Gays and lesbians raise a large amount of funds for the DNC. Until our major issues are addressed, it is time we close the gayTM.

Don't give until the DNC and Obama have met their obligations to us. We have waited long enough.

Jennifer Vanasco is an award-winning, syndicated columnist. E-mail her at jennifer.vanasco@gmail.com; follow her at Twitter.com/jennifervanasco.



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Finding purpose, pride

Opinion
BY ANGEL SEVILLA

Role models these days are few and far between.

What do gay men care about? What do we think about? Any person in their 20s, gay or straight, is for the most part in the same frame of mind, thinking of one thing: Sex. Those of us in our 20s are at that point in our lives when we're suddenly faced with the world. What job should I get? What should my hair look like? Should I be dating or should I be single? And at the forefront of all of this, when am I going to have sex next? Will it be tonight? Tomorrow? I want it now!

There's nothing wrong with this mentality — it's human nature. The problem, though, is that gay guys nowadays seem to be completely invested in their sexual explorations and not very interested in other things that might be of value to them — such as furthering their education, becoming self sufficient, earning self respect.

I can't tell you how many people I've met who are my age (22) or younger who have had sex for money and/or drugs, have turned to stripping as a source of income (and they were not working their way through college), or have contracted the HIV virus already as a result of having unsafe sex.

It's a disappointing shame.

But if sex is universal, then why are gay men seemingly getting the raw end of the deal?

In the media, gay men are portrayed as people who go about life with such sexual frivolity that it's entertaining to watch and hear about. Comedians make jokes, and gay men revel in them.

But what about the struggle that came before us that gives us the right to do what

we do with no questions asked?

I can honestly tell you as a 22-year-old gay man that I'm probably not as appreciative of my gay rights as I should. It's difficult to appreciate something for which you didn't fight.

I was born in 1987. I don't know anything about the Stonewall riots, or marches or protests or fighting to hold the hand of my lover out on public streets.

And on top of all that, role models these days are few and far between.

So, when I was 15 and coming out to my parents, the only interpretation I had of "gay" was the slutty one I kept seeing portrayed.

I've had conversations with guys my age in which I'll ask, "What's your motivation, what's your passion? What's your favorite thing to do?"

It was disappointing that so many responded, "Sex." Really?

That's why you wake up in the morning?

That's how shallow you are?

So, now what we're asking for is gay marriage, equality, and respect, but we aren't getting these things because conservatives don't like us.

Personally, I can kind of

see why.

We aren't presented as a people who are equal, and maybe we should look in the mirror and ask ourselves why. Perhaps we aren't presenting ourselves as people who deserve respect.

Generally speaking, young gay men have been a terrible example of what a young person should be, and this has got to stop.

Whatever happened to valuing hard work and ethics and integrity? Does that not fit into the "young gay lifestyle?"

It seems that the things that are valued now are how popular you are at the clubs, what clothes you're wearing and whether you've gotten your eyebrows tweezed or threaded.

Casual sex is nothing to be ashamed about but nothing to be proud of. It's irrelevant to the real issues of life.

Going to college, on the other hand, is something you can flaunt. Having a job instead of a sugar daddy is a reason for pride. Making something of yourself is the way to earn respect — both the respect of others and respect for yourself. This is a message to all LGBT people out there: We need to step up our game and be examples for the younger generations to come. Let's let them know that with hard work — very hard work — anything is possible.

Angel Sevilla is a junior at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design with a major focus on drawing. He was born and raised in Milwaukee, where he has done volunteer work with the ACLU.

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Puerto Rico police make arrest in beheading

From WiG and
AP Reports

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Police Nov. 17 arrested a suspect in the slaying of a teenager whose decapitated remains were found along a road in southern Puerto Rico.

Police commandant Eliezer Colon said the suspect was detained at his home early

Nov. 17. The suspect, at the time, had not been identified because he had not been formally charged.

The burned and dismembered body of 19-year-old Jorge Steven Lopez was discovered Nov. 13 in a wooded area of the town of Cayey. Authorities were looking into whether he may have been targeted because he

was gay.

Puerto Rico LGBT activist Pedro Julio Serrano called officials to treat the case as a hate crime if the investigation shows Lopez was killed because of his sexual orientation.

Earlier this fall, the president signed into law legislation that expands the definition of hate crimes to include

sexual orientation and gender identity and authorizes federal intervention or assistance in investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

In remembrance of Lopez, described by friends on the Web as an aspiring fashion artist, a vigil was planned in New York City Nov. 22.

"The queer community

in Puerto Rico needs to know we support them," read a call to action from organizers of the Manhattan vigil. "We must funnel our sadness into an outpouring of righteous outrage. We must show the government, the media, and the oppressors that to systemically target one group for its appearance

or mannerisms — and then subject them to violence explicitly for those criteria — is intolerable."

A Web community also organized for justice in Lopez's death, with forums created on a number of social-networking sites, including Justice for Jorge Steven Lopez — End Hate Crimes on Facebook.

LDS church backs Salt Lake anti-discrimination law

By Lisa Neff

WiG Staff Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Pioneering Mormon activists, like their Mormon elders so many years ago, hauled a handcart into Salt Lake City Nov. 4.

The old wooden cart held a trunk containing petitions

circulated by the Foundation for Reconciliation and bearing the signatures of 2,000 people who want the LDS church to examine how "official statements, rhetoric, policy and practice have been injurious to gays and lesbians and their families and friends; have caused unnecessary

pain and suffering, rejection, psychological and spiritual damage and even death."

The church has a long history of opposing LGBT equality and heavily funding initiatives against same-sex marriage rights — from the first battle over same-sex marriage in Hawaii in the

mid-1990s to last year's Prop 8 battle in California.

Activists — some former church members and some still members — walked about two hours to the church headquarters on the anniversary of the Prop 8 defeat. They described the event as a "rescue mission."

A week later, the church announced its support for a pair of Salt Lake City anti-discrimination ordinances banning bias based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

The ordinances, which the city council unanimously passed, contain exemptions

for religious organizations.

A church spokesman said, "The church supports this ordinance because it is fair and reasonable and does not do violence to the institution of marriage. It is also entirely consistent with the church's prior position on these matters."

GET CONNECTED

White House:

www.whitehouse.gov.

U.S. Senate:

www.senate.gov.

Russell Feingold, 506 Hart Senate

Office Building, Washington DC 20510;

202-224-5323, www.feingold.senate.gov.

Herb Kohl, 330 Hart Senate Office

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www.kohl.senate.gov.

U.S. House of Representatives:

www.house.gov.

Tammy Baldwin, 2nd Congressional

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tammybaldwin.house.gov.

Steve Kagen, 8th, 202-225-5665,

www.kagen.house.gov.

Ron Kind, 3rd, 202-225-5506, www.

kind.house.gov.

Gwen Moore, 4th, 202-225-4572,

www.house.gov/gwenmoore/.

David Obey, 7th, 202-225-3365, www.

obey.house.gov/.

Thomas Petri, 6th, 202-225-2476,

www.petri.house.gov.

Paul Ryan, 1st, 202-225-3031, www.

house.gov/ryan/.

James Sensenbrenner, 5th, 202-225-

5101, www.sensenbrenner.house.gov/.

'I'm happy as I could be.'

Baldwin from 7

Baldwin spends her weeks in Washington when Congress is in session, but every weekend she returns to Madison, where she and Azar live in an 1894 house they restored together. During the week, they have a standing appointment to speak every night at the same time by phone. According to their rules of engagement, they must have a deeper conversa-

tion than merely sharing information.

"We have to interact," Baldwin says. "We can't just say, 'My day was fine.'"

Baldwin and Azar are among the more than 1,200 same-sex couples who have registered as domestic partners in Wisconsin under a law that went into effect in early August. Baldwin wears an engagement ring that Azar gave her.

"Just because I'm a lesbian doesn't mean I don't like dia-

monds," she laughs, showing off her ring with a flutter of her fingers.

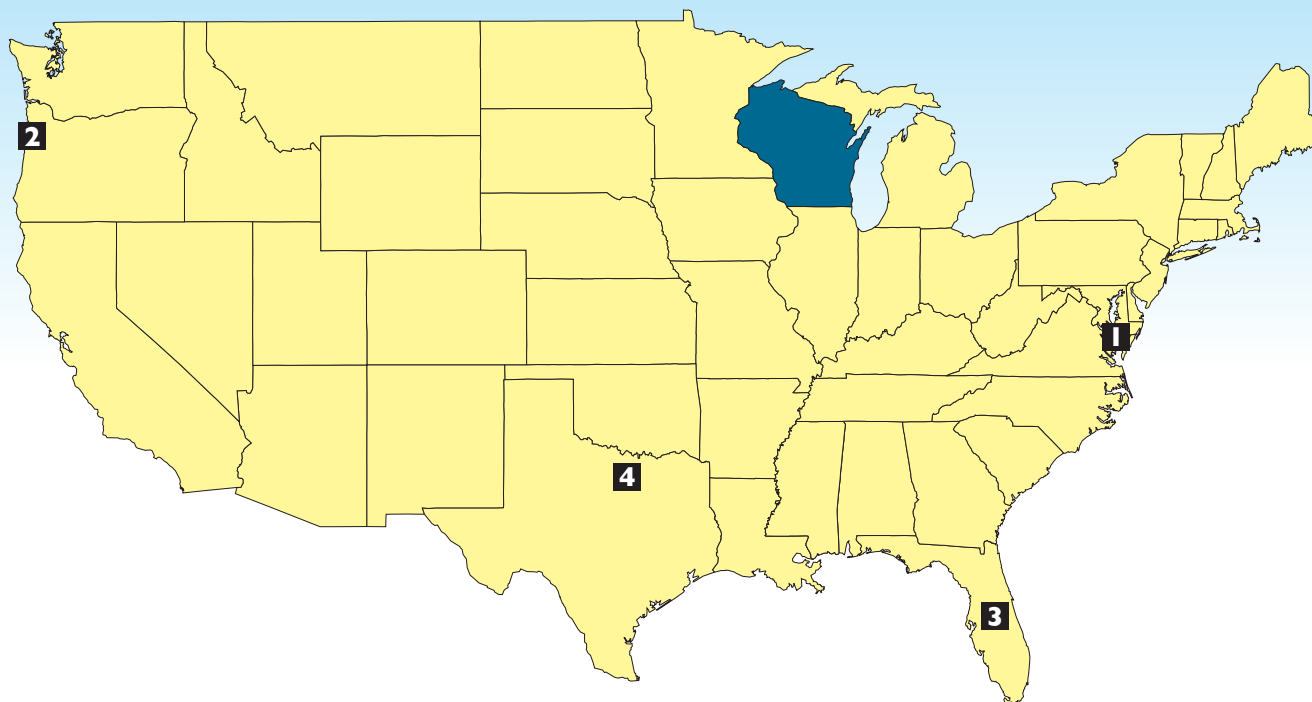
Baldwin's name is often mentioned as a prospective U.S. Senate candidate, if a seat became open. That's not an opportunity she's seeking, she says, but she won't rule it out either.

"I'm as happy as I could be (in the House)," she says. "Would I consider running for the Senate? Yes. It would depend on where I could do the most good."



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1. STATE GROUPS RALLY FOR HEALTH CARE BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WiG) — State LGBT groups are urging members to ask their congressional delegations to support the Affordable Health Care for All America Act.

The measure, in addition to a public option to expand coverage, includes a number of provisions of specific interest to LGBTs, data collection that includes sexual orientation and gender identity and strict prohibitions on discrimination in health care and insurance coverage.

"We are too often discriminated against by insurance companies and health care providers and denied the care that we need. The



status quo harms our community and our families, and we deserve better," read an appeal from Georgia Equality.

2. OREGON MAY VOTE ON MARRIAGE

SALEM, Ore. (WiG) — Gay rights backers intend to ask Oregon voters to reverse the state's ban on gay marriage in a ballot question.

Basic Rights Oregon said this month that it hopes to put the issue back before Oregon voters as soon as 2012.

In 2004, Oregon voters passed a constitutional amendment defining marriage as being between a man and a woman.

3. MAN GUILTY OF 2007 FLORIDA KILLING

BARTOW, Fla. (WiG) — A central Florida man was convicted of first-degree murder in a 2007 anti-gay killing.

A Polk County jury convicted 22-year-old William Brown Jr. in early November. Brown had pleaded guilty to charges of arson and tampering with evidence.

Brown and 23-year-old Joseph Bearden killed 25-year-old Ryan Skipper March 14, 2007. The two men stole Skipper's car, stabbed him repeatedly and then dumped

his body on a roadside.

Law enforcement believed Skipper was targeted because of his sexual orientation but hate crime charges were not pursued in the case.

Bearden was convicted of second-degree murder in February and given a life sentence. Brown also faces life in prison.

Prior to the trial, Skipper's family released a statement that read: "We are here to let the world know that Ryan, like so many LGBT people, was an upstanding citizen in this community. We are here because this tragedy continues to scar our lives. And we are here to encourage others to stand with us in fighting against hate, bigotry and inequality wherever we may find it."

4. TEXAS LIQUOR BOARD TO MAKE CHANGES AFTER BAR RAID

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Texas' liquor board plans to change the way it conducts investigations into excessive use of force allegations, the agency said earlier this month, after its agents were accused of wrongdoing during a raid at a gay bar that left a customer with severe head wounds.

Fort Worth police, who assisted during the raid, also plan to change their policies on bar checks and public intoxication arrests in light of the raid, Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead said at a news conference across from the bar.

However, the investigation by the Texas Alcoholic

Beverage Commission did not find that the bar was targeted because of its gay and lesbian customers, and said agents didn't use force beyond what was necessary and reasonable.

An inquiry by Fort Worth police also determined its officers didn't use excessive force.

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ENDA hearings held

By Lisa Neff

WIG Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. lawmakers are getting to work on a measure intended to guard against anti-LGBT discrimination on the job.

The U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee this month held the Senate's first hearing on the fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which bans workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

ENDA, intended to close the gap in 29 states lacking protections for LGBTs, would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The measure, as proposed in the Senate and House, would not apply to companies with fewer than 15 employees.

"The Senate is moving forward with legislation to protect Americans from

arbitrary discrimination in the workplace," said Joe Solmonese, president of the D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign. "Like our neighbors and co-workers, LGBT people simply want a fair chance to succeed and support our families."

The Senate version of ENDA was introduced Aug. 15. The House version was introduced June 24 and was scheduled for a committee vote as early as this week.

Witnesses for ENDA at the Senate hearing included Solmonese, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Massachusetts police officer Mike Carney, who sued for sexual orientation discrimination.

Opening the hearing, U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, said, "Over the last 45 years, we have made great strides towards eliminating discrimination in the workplace. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion. The Age

Discrimination in Employment Act, in 1967, prohibited discrimination on the basis of age. The Americans with Disabilities Act, in 1990, prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability. It is time, at long last, for us to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity as well. Such discrimination is wrong and cannot be tolerated."

Harkin chairs the committee formerly chaired by Edward Kennedy. Harkin said the Massachusetts lawmaker would have been proud to have presided over the hearing.

"Sen. Kennedy worked his entire career to ensure opportunity for all Americans," Harkin said. "And he first introduced this legislation in 1994. Today, by taking up this important bill, we continue Sen. Kennedy's work, and we continue the proud commitment of this committee to uphold fair treatment for working Americans."

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Results show AIDS vaccine is of modest help

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**

AP Medical Writer

Fresh results from the world's first successful test of an experimental AIDS vaccine confirm that it is only marginally effective.

Yet, the findings are exciting to scientists who think they may show how to make a better vaccine.

"This study becomes a landmark. You can put it on a map and begin to figure out where you go from here," said Col. Jerome Kim, the U.S. Army doctor who co-led the trial.

Earlier this fall, researchers announced that a two-vaccine combination cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31 percent in a trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand.

Full results, published online in late October by the New England Journal of Medicine, include two additional analyses that merely suggest the vaccine is beneficial, rather than providing definitive proof.

That's mostly because so few participants became infected — only 125 people, 10 times less than in previous HIV vaccine trials, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the study's main sponsor.

Critics had leaked one of the analyses in mid-October, saying it showed the original results may have been a fluke. A California-based AIDS advocacy group criticized study leaders for not giving a fuller picture when they held their news conference in September.

"The bottom line is that those results are real," even though they are not good enough to justify using this vaccine now, said Dr. Alan Bernstein, executive director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, an alliance of governments, AIDS scientists, the World Health Organization and funders such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We, for the first time, have evidence of protection, and the nitty gritty (argu-



PHOTO: COURTESY WHITE HOUSE/PETE SOUZA

RYAN WHITE BILL SIGNED President Barack Obama and lawmakers applaud Jeanne White-Ginder, right, mother of Ryan White, during his remarks before signing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House.

ments) to me don't matter a damn," Bernstein said.

Other scientists agreed. "It's a consistent story. There seems to be some effect. And I think it is an important study. It redirects the field to look at a different kind of vaccine and different kinds of immune responses" than what have been the focus in the past,

said Dr. Lawrence Corey of the University of Washington. He heads the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, an international group of scientists who test vaccines.

The Thailand Ministry of Public Health conducted this trial, which used vaccines made from strains of HIV common in Thailand. They are ALVAC, made by Sanofi

Pasteur, and AIDSVAX, originally developed by VaxGen Inc. and now held by the nonprofit Global Solutions for Infectious Diseases. The vaccines are not made from whole virus and cannot cause HIV infection.

The combo was tested in HIV-negative Thai men and women ages 18 to 30 at average risk of becoming infected. Half received four doses of ALVAC and two of AIDSVAX over six months; the rest received dummy shots. All were given condoms and counseling, and were followed for three years after vaccination ended.

New infections occurred in 51 of the 8,197 given vaccine and in 74 of the 8,198 who received dummy shots. That worked out to a 31 percent lower risk of infection for the vaccine group.

In a smaller analysis of just the 12,452 participants who received all six shots exactly on schedule, there were 86 infections — 36 in the vaccine group and 50 in those given dummy shots.

The vaccine appeared nearly twice as effective among those at low or moderate risk for HIV, but those results were not statistically significant, meaning they could have occurred by chance.

Evidence of vaccine protection emerged at six months to one year and then seemed to wane, although this trend, too, was not statistically significant.

"It would suggest the vaccine is not that potent," although there were too few infections in either group to make solid comparisons, said Dr. Seth Berkley, president of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, which helps develop and assess potential vaccines.

ON THE NET

New England Journal: <http://www.nejm.org>

Vaccine conference: <http://tinyurl.com/d235nn>

Study information: www.hivresearch.org/phase3/factsheet.html

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Maine rescue effort fails at ballot box

From WiG and AP Reports

PORTLAND, Maine — The stars seemed aligned for supporters of gay marriage. They had Maine's governor, legislative leaders and major newspapers on their side, plus a huge edge in campaign funding. So losing a landmark referendum was a devastating blow for activists in Maine and nationwide.

"Our freedoms have been stripped away, but we must and will win them back," said Jennifer Chrisler of the Family Equality Council in Boston.

In an election that had been billed for weeks as too close to call, the northeastern state's often unpredictable voters repealed a state law Nov. 3 that would have allowed same-sex couples to wed. Gay marriage has now lost in all 31 states in which it has been put to a popular vote — a trend that the gay-rights movement had believed it could end in Maine.

"Today's heartbreaking defeat unfortunately shows that lies and fear can still win at the ballot box," said Rea Carey, executive director of the D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Gay-marriage foes had 53 percent of the vote. They prevailed in many of Maine's far-flung small towns and lost by a less-than-expected mar-

gin in the state's biggest city, Portland.

"The institution of marriage has been preserved in Maine and across the nation," declared Frank Schubert, chief organizer for the winning side.

Attention will now turn to other states, including California — where Schubert was an instrumental strategist a year ago in the successful campaign to overturn -ordered same-sex marriage.

Gay-rights activists have been planning to go back to the ballot in California, either in 2010 or 2012, in another attempt to legalize gay marriage. But the Maine result was not the victory they had been hoping for to fire up their troops.

Brian Brown of the National Organization for Marriage, a conservative group that steered substantial funds to fight gay marriage in both California and Maine, was elated by the Nov. 3 vote, saying it shows "that even in a New England state, if the voters have a chance to have their say, they're going to protect and defend the commonsense definition of marriage."

At issue in the referendum was a law passed by the Maine Legislature last spring that would have allowed gays to wed. The law was put

on hold after conservatives launched a petition drive to repeal it.

Five other states have legalized gay marriage — Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Iowa — but all did so through legislation or court rulings, not by popular vote.

Richard Socarides, who was an adviser on gay-rights issues in the Clinton administration, said the loss in Maine should prompt gay-rights leaders to reconsider their state-by-state strategy on marriage and shift instead to lobbying for changes on the federal level that expand recognition of same-sex couples.

In Maine, gay-marriage supporters conceded early Nov. 4.

"I am proud of the thousands of Mainers who knocked on doors, made phone calls and talked to their family, friends and neighbors about the basic premise of treating all Maine families equally," said Jesse Connolly of the No on 1 campaign. "And I'm proud of this campaign because the stories we told and the images we shared were of real Mainers — parents who stood up for their children, and couples who simply wanted to marry the person they love.

"We're in this for the long haul," Connolly continued. "For next week, and next month, and next year — until all Maine families are treated equally."

A similar note was sounded by Democratic Gov. John Baldacci, who signed the bill into law.

"If we don't get to the top of the mountain tonight, we've made a significant stride. And we're going to get there," he said. "We will get to the top of the mountain."

Both sides in Maine drew volunteers and contributions from out of state, but the money edge went to the campaign in defense of gay marriage, Protect Maine Equality. It raised \$4 million, compared with \$2.5 million for Stand for Marriage Maine.

As was the case in the Proposition 8 fight in California, a substantial amount of money to repeal the legislation came from religious organizations and institutions, specifically the Catholic Church.

On Nov. 4, the leader of the Catholic Church in Maine, Bishop Richard Malone, thanked Mainers for reaffirming marriage as it's been understood "for millennia by civilizations and religions around the world."



PHOTO: AP/PAT WELLENBACH

Archie, age 3 (left), Zachary, age 4 (center), and Harry, age 4, join in a pro-gay marriage rally the day before Election Day in Portland, Maine, Nov. 2. Gay marriage legislation was approved by Maine's Legislature earlier in the year. However, Maine voters went to the polls Nov. 3 and overturned the measure.



PHOTO: SEABROOK JONES

SEEING RED, MARKING RED WEEK

Austin, Texas, marked the city's Red Week with a series of events and the lighting of some of the city's more prominent buildings, including the Radison at Town Lake. There are an estimated 6,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Central Texas, and about 20 percent of them do not know their status, according to organizers of Austin Red Week.

Vote 2009: Washington, Michigan victories

SEATTLE — Election Day brought defeat in Maine, but victory in Washington state, where voters upheld the state's new domestic partnership law.

"Today is a great day of celebration for the tens of thousands of gay and lesbian families in Washington, and for anyone who supports equality in our state and around the country," said state Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, who pushed for the partnership measure. "While it felt like a crushing blow this fall when

R-71 received enough signatures to make the ballot, at the time I expressed my faith that Washington voters would uphold the progress the Legislature made for gay and lesbian couples.... And yesterday, the voters of Washington came through."

Meanwhile, in Kalamazoo, Mich., Nov. 3, voters upheld a local ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The vote to retain the ordinance was 62 percent. "Yesterday voters put

on paper what you knew to be true all along, that all people in Kalamazoo should be treated fairly and equally including our gay and transgender neighbors," said Jon Hoadley, who managed the One Kalamazoo campaign to retain the ordinance.

The Kalamazoo City Commission adopted the ordinance in June. A similar anti-discrimination ordinance was adopted and then repealed by city commissioners in January.

— Lisa Neff



PHOTO: COURTESY U.N.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, speaking at the 12th plenary meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Activists are lobbying the president to help defeat an anti-gay measure in Uganda.

ARGENTINE CONGRESS CONSIDERS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Is Argentina ready to become Latin America's first nation to legalize gay marriage?

Gay and lesbian activists think so — and they have a growing number of supporters in Congress, which opened debate in late October on whether to change dozens of laws that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"We can't expect social equality if the state is legitimizing inequality," said Maria Rachid, president of the Argentine Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Federation. "We now have

the social and political context necessary to change the law."

It remains to be seen whether activists have enough votes to overcome opposition from religious groups. The Roman Catholic Church remains a driving force in Argentina, where presidents were required to be both married and Catholic until a 1994 reform.

Argentina's capital established its gay-friendly reputation in 2002 by becoming the first Latin American city to legalize same-sex civil unions. Four other Argentine cities later did the same, and such unions also now are recognized in Mexico City and some Mexican and Brazilian states. Uruguay alone has legalized

civil unions nationwide.

Canada is the only nation in the Americas where gay marriage is now legal; in the Spanish-speaking world, only Spain has taken this additional step.

The capital's civil-unions law was initially celebrated as a huge victory for gay and lesbian rights, but such partnerships don't confer many rights exclusive to married couples, such as the right to adopt children in the name of both parents, to enable a partner to gain citizenship and to inherit wealth or be included in insurance policies.

"A civil union is a link that grants certain rights, but not those available to a married couple, which only a national law can grant," the bill's co-sponsor, Rep. Vilma Ibarra, told AP. "This is the first round in a long process, but it is already a success to have it out there."

More than 20 lawmakers have signed on as supporters of same-sex marriage, and they believe they have enough votes in committee for a full vote in the lower house. It would then go to the Senate.

BALDWIN URGES CONDEMNATION OF UGANDA BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WiG) — U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., urged Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to use the full force of her office to condemn the "Anti-Homosexual Bill" introduced in Uganda's parliament in October.

"This egregious bill represents one of the most extreme anti-equality measures ever proposed in any country and would create a legal pretext for depriving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Ugandans of their liberty, and even their lives," Baldwin wrote in a letter to Clinton.

The letter carried the signatures of U.S. Reps. Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.). It stated, "Particularly given the United States'

substantial contribution to Uganda through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, we believe swift action is necessary to ensure Ugandan leaders understand this bill is wholly unacceptable and antithetical to democratic values."

THOUSANDS MARCH IN TAIWAN GAY PARADE

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Thousands of gay rights supporters marched through Taiwan's capital in late October, calling for increased tolerance and the enactment of anti-discrimination legislation.

The seventh annual Taiwan Gay Parade in Taipei featured marchers decked out in costumes ranging from prom queens to sumo wrestlers, loud pulsating music, and bright orange and yellow banners.

Taiwan is considered to have one of Asia's most vibrant gay communities, and its gay rights parade is the largest in the Chinese-speaking world.

Organizer Tung Chu-chu said this year's theme was "Love Out Loud," reflecting the participants' hopes that "through love, we can eliminate discrimination."

"We love the people around us, but sometimes the society and the government don't love us, or even see us," she said.

She chided the government of President Ma Ying-jeou for not passing anti-discrimination legislation.

Presidential spokesman Wang Yu-chi said that Ma had supported gay rights when he was mayor of Taipei and that "he continues with that support."

U.N. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AGAINST RESOLUTION

BRUSSELS (WiG) — The International Gay and Lesbian Association recently expressed concern that new United Nations Assembly President Ali Abdussalam

U.N. PANEL FAULTS RUSSIA ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MOSCOW (AP) — From Russia's North Caucasus to the streets of Moscow, those who find themselves at odds with authorities can wind up as targets of deadly violence. So increasingly, some are working quietly or have abandoned their efforts altogether.

A new United Nations Human Rights Committee report on Russia called for a series of sweeping legal reforms, saying the country is still struggling to guarantee some of the most basic rights, including to a fair trial, freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Meanwhile a spate of killings has forced Memorial, one of Russia's leading human rights organizations, and the crusading newspaper Novaya Gazeta, to pull out of the Russian region of Chechnya.

The U.N. report urged the government to take action against what the panel called an increasing number of hate crimes and racially motivated attacks.

The expert panel said it was concerned about violence against LGBTs, including reports of police harassment, adding it was concerned at the "systematic discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation" in Russia.

Treki will not consider the protection of LGBT people a matter of human rights.

Treki, earlier this year, said he is "not in favor" of the U.N. statement supporting the decriminalization of homosexuality. The measure was introduced last December and has the support of 66 countries.

Treki said decriminalization of same-sex sex is "not acceptable in the majority of the world."

IGLA urged representatives from the nations that supported the statement and voted for Treki to demand reconsideration.

SWEDEN'S CHURCH ORDAINS FIRST OPENLY GAY BISHOP

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden's Lutheran church said in mid-November it had ordained its first openly gay bishop, just two weeks after it gave priests the right to wed same-sex couples.

Eva Brunne was ordained as bishop of Stockholm's diocese in a ceremony.

She lives in a "registered partnership" with another woman, a civil union between gays used in Sweden before same-sex marriages were

legalized this year. The couple also has a child.

"It is very positive that our church is setting an example here and is choosing me as bishop based on my qualifications, when they also know that they can meet resistance elsewhere," the 55-year-old Brunne said.

Brunne spokeswoman Annika Sjoqvist Platzer said she didn't know of any openly gay women who had reached the position of bishop in other countries.

World

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE
FROM WiG AND AP REPORTS

However, the United Church of Christ, a liberal denomination in the United States, has several openly gay and lesbian "conference ministers," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, a church spokesman in Cleveland. That designation is similar to that of bishop.

In 2003, the Episcopal Church in the U.S. consecrated its first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.



A scene from
"Make the
Yuletide Gay."

Xmas jollies

An interview with
filmmaker
Rob Williams.

By Gregg Shapiro

WiG Staff writer

After making serious dramatic films such as "Back Soon" and "3-Day Weekend," gay filmmaker Rob Williams puts his delightful sense of humor on display with the hilarious comedy "Make The Yuletide Gay."

The farce surrounds college student Olaf (Keith Jordan), who is out and proud on campus, but thinks he's closeted where his family and neighbors back home in Wisconsin are concerned. That all changes when boyfriend Nathan shows up to surprise him for Christmas.

"Make The Yuletide Gay," released on DVD this month, is that rare combination of funny and sexy. WiG spoke with Williams shortly before the movie made its U.S. premiere at the Film

Out San Diego film festival.

Gregg Shapiro: I recently interviewed gay filmmaker Casper Andreas about "Between Love & Goodbye," a movie that took him out of the comedy genre into drama, and after a couple of serious films, you have made the move to straightforward comedy with "Make The Yuletide Gay."

Rob Williams: I think that first and foremost it was the story that came to me, and that I wanted to tell. I don't try to limit myself to any specific genre — drama or comedy or anything. I just want to tell the stories that I want to tell. This one happened to be a comedy. I think that for me, after doing a couple of dramatic pieces, I really wanted to do something that was fun and has a happy ending and is a very hopeful and accessible film for a lot of people...

GS: I think that you achieved that. How much
Film page 18

Earthbound adventures

By Gregg Shapiro

WIG Staff Writer

When I first heard about "Adventureland" (Miramax), a 1980s straight coming-of-age story set mostly in an amusement park, I thought of Todd Stephens' "Edge of Seventeen." Only the latter was a 1980s gay coming-of-age story with an amusement park backdrop.

Written and directed by Greg Mottola ("Superbad" and the far superior "The Daytrippers"), "Adventureland" is an amusing take on the fish-out-of-water story. James (Jesse Eisenberg channeling Michael Cera), a virgin college grad, takes a summer job at a Pittsburgh-area amusement park to raise funds for his grad school move to New

York. There he encounters Em (Kristen Stewart), who has her own troubles, including an affair with married repairman Connell (Ryan Reynolds).

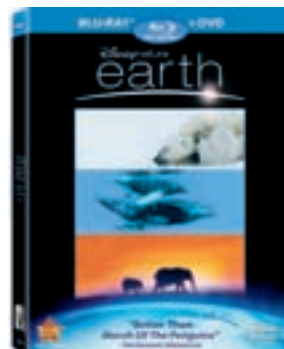
The emotional rollercoaster that the title suggests, "Adventureland" has its share of ups and downs, but at least it won't make you sick to your stomach. Unrated DVD bonus features include the featurette "Just My Life: The Making of Adventureland" with cast and director interviews, deleted scenes, feature commentary and more.

Earth Day 2009 has come and gone. Earth, the planet is still here, and so is the DVD of the Disney/Discovery Channel documentary "Earth." Narrated by James Earl Jones, "Earth" is a doc



"Adventureland"

of epic proportion. The film begins in January, when a mother polar bear and her two cubs emerge into the light of day to face the harsh reality of life in the Arctic, which is suffering from the impact of a warming planet. A thousand miles south,



"Earth"

where a belt of trees functions as an oxygen-producing forest, a lynx roams in search of prey. This sets the stage for exhilarating yet terrifying and realistic scenes involving caribou and wolves.

Following the rhythm of the seasons, we travel to

jungles that support an abundance of life, including plants you can hear growing during the time-lapse photography sequence. A segment on the vast varieties of birds of paradise is especially colorful and entertaining.

But before long it's back to the growth of deserts and the shrinking grasslands. We observe elephants in the Kalahari on a life-or-death quest for water. As if they didn't face enough hardship, a particularly graphic confrontation with a pride of lions reminds viewers of the challenges facing both herds and their hunters.

A "circle of life" reference recalls Disney's "Lion King." From shifting weather systems to cranes crossing the Himalayas, from waterfalls to

DVDs
WiGOUT

humpback whales and great white shark-eating seals, from penguins and walrus and back to polar bears struggling to find sustenance as the Arctic ice melts quickly in the summer, "Earth" is revolutionary. Not just for its stunning photography and its respect for its subject matter, but also in the way it sets the stage for Earth Day 2010 and the arrival of the Disney doc "Oceans" in theaters. A Blu-Ray+DVD combo is available and includes the featurette "Earth Diaries: The Making of 'Earth' the Movie."

'So they started doing the accents'

Film from 17

of Rob, if any, is in Olaf and Nathan?

RW: Practically none (laughs). This is certainly not autobiographical in any sense. Any writer who says that there isn't a little piece of them in their characters is lying. So I'm sure there's a little bit of me in a line or two. But this is definitely not my story at all.

GS: So, the Wisconsin setting ... you're not a native?

RW: No, not at all. Where that came from (is) Kelly Keaton, who plays the mother Anja, is a good friend of mine and she is a total Wisconsin cheesehead. That character is really based on her. Through the years of knowing her, I've picked up on all these sayings

from Wisconsin that she uses. I took her and amped her up about 1,000 percent. But it was really inspired by her.

GS: You worked with Derek Long, who plays Sven in "Make The Yuletide Gay," previously in "3-Day Weekend." What was it about him that made you want to work with him again?

RW: He's an amazing actor, period.... And, on top of all that, (he's) just the nicest person in the world. ... When I introduced him to Kelly Keaton at our Guest House Films holiday party about a year and a half ago, they started talking and realized that they were both from Wisconsin. So they started doing the accents and everything.... Seeing them

together, it was like, "OK, this will work."

GS: It was serendipitous.

RW: Yes, absolutely. If they hadn't met and started doing that right in front of me, this movie probably would have happened, but the parents might not have been from Wisconsin. It would have been a completely different film.

GS: How does working with actors with whom you have a working relationship affect the process?

RW: I find it easier. You know each other's working styles and there's a certain shorthand that you can get. ... Then there's the comfort level of (working with) people such as Steve Callahan,



Rob Williams

who plays the professor in the movie.... I find that it helps, but at the same time, having all sorts of fresh blood on the set... All these people brought so much to it that it was such a joy.... It didn't feel like work. We were celebrating Christmas for 12 days.

GS: What can you tell me about your upcoming projects?

RW: We have a couple of projects in active development. One is a novel which we have optioned called "Van Allen's Ecstasy" (by Jim Tushinski) and we're in the process of adapting that for the screen. If everything works out, we'll shoot that in 2010.

We're also working on a project with Matthew Montgomery, a producer on all of our films, who also starred in "Long-Term Relationship" and "Back Soon" and all sorts of other gay films. He has written a film titled "Stick Figures" and has formed his own production company, and jointly with Guest House Films we're going to produce that. We're

'So I'm sure there's a little bit of me in a line or two. But this is definitely not my story at all.'

raising funds for that now.

Gregg Shapiro covers LGBT entertainment and culture for newspapers throughout the country.

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Reel advice: Now playing

By Gregg Shapiro
WiG Staff Writer

“AN EDUCATION”

“An Education” — directed by Lone Scherfig — is a fitting title for this story of teenager Jenny’s (Carey Mulligan) awakening at the hands of older man David (Peter Sarsgaard). Jenny, who lives with her parents Jack (Alfred Molina) and Majorie (Cara Seymour) in the London suburb Twickenham in the early 1960s, is prepping for her Oxford interview. While waiting for the bus in the rain with her cello, she is offered a ride home by David, and she reluctantly accepts. They hit it off and suddenly the attentions of Graham (Matthew Beard), a boy her own age, are meaningless to Jenny. Soon David has charmed Jack and Majorie. He takes Jenny to concerts and dinner and more. Jenny meets David’s friends Danny (a hotter than ever Dominic Cooper) and Helen (Rosamund Pike), and gets a glimpse into David and Danny’s shady business dealings. At school, Jenny’s friends are captivated by her stories of her adventures with David. However, her teacher Miss Stubbs (Olivia Williams) and headmistress (Emma Thompson) are less thrilled. With her future hanging in the balance, Jenny makes decisions that will impact the rest of her life. But little does she know that David is keeping a secret. Mulligan, who is reminiscent of a younger (and more talented) Katie Holmes, is terrific and gives the audience plenty of reasons to care about Jenny and



what becomes of her.

“COCO BEFORE CHANEL”

Anne Fontaine’s biopic “Coco Before Chanel” is not the first time fashion icon Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel’s story has been told on screen. Nearly 30 years ago, Marie-France Pisier portrayed the haute-couture designer in “Chanel Solitaire,” and as recently as last year Shirley MacLaine earned Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG award nominations for playing Chanel. In Fontaine’s film, we follow Chanel from the orphanage at which she and her sister Adrienne were left as young girls to the saloon where she and Adrienne performed 15 years later. By then, Gabrielle (the wonderful Audrey Tautou) and Adrienne (Marie Gillain) were also working as seamstresses and beginning to gain a reputation. We see a bit of Chanel’s handiwork when she adjusts one of her sister’s costumes for comfort. Gabrielle attracts the attention of wealthy Étienne Balsan (Benoît Poelvoorde), who nicknames her Coco. Taking his interest in her perhaps more seriously than he intended, Coco packs her things and surprises Balsan at his chateau. Her two-day stay becomes somewhat permanent, and Balsan introduces her to his circle. It is there that she also meets Arthur “Boy” Capel (Alessandro Nivola), Baslan’s British finan-

cier, who goes on to become Coco’s one true love. But Capel is engaged and their relationship can never be what they want. Chanel threw herself into her work and the rest is fashion history. Fashionistas will most likely revel in this lovingly told tale of Coco Chanel.

“NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU”

It’s almost unfathomable that none of the writers and directors behind the abysmal anthology flick “New York, I Love You” included storylines with African-American, Puerto Rican or LGBT characters. How was it possible to make a movie titled “New York, I Love You” and not show some love for the inhabitants of Chelsea or Harlem? This heavily hetero piece is a sloppy patchwork of diamond dealers (played by Natalie Portman and Irrfan Khan), one-night standers (Bradley Cooper and Drea de Matteo), flirty smokers (Ethan Hawke, Maggie Q, Robin Wright Penn and Chris Cooper), film score composers (Orlando Bloom), meddling pharmacists (James Caan), prom night revelers (Anton Yelchin), pickpockets (Hayden Christensen and Andy Garcia), crotchety old married couples (Cloris Leachman and Eli Wallach). With only one remotely intriguing story that could have been set anywhere (starring Julie Christie as an aging opera singer), there’s nothing to love about “New York, I Love You.”

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Home for the Holidays Mix N’ Mingle

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53215
Friday, December 11, 2009
5:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Come and celebrate with the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and Project Q youth of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as we come “home for the holidays.” Food will be provided by Haute Dish, a Personal Chef Service, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Our celebration also includes a raffle of great artwork. Center members: \$10; non-members: \$15.

RSVP by December 7 to Patrick Price, Director of Philanthropy, at (414) 292-3065 or pprice@mkelgbt.org.



Don't just sit there...

By Gregg Shapiro

WIG Staff Writer

David Guetta is this year's Mark Ronson. He's the kind of producer/remixer with whom all the stars (and wannabes) want to work. His "One Love" (Astralwerks/Gum Prod) features a mind-blowing array of artists, including Kid Cudi, Akon, Kelly Rowland, Estelle, Black Eyed Peas and out artist Chris Willis.

As with many multi-artist discs, this one is a hit-or-miss proposition. But when Guetta hits, as he does with "One Love" (Estelle), "When Love Takes Over" (Rowland), "Memories" (Kid Cudi) and "Gettin' Over" and "The Sound of Letting Go" (Willis), he scores a bull's eye.

For years I've pined for



more artist discs by DJs, and finally they're becoming more common. Tiësto is a leader in this genre, and his latest is the multi-hued "Kaleidoscope" (Ultra/Musical Freedom). Like Guetta, he's dipped into the LGBT talent pool. Tiësto uses the artistry of Bloc Party's out frontman Kele Okereke on "It's Not The Things You Say," queer twin sisters Tegan and Sara on "Feel It In My Bones" and Sigur Ros' Jónsi supplies the haunting vocals on the title track. The rest of the guest artists, including Nelly Furtado, Priscilla Ahn,



A 1980s influence can be detected on "Ocean Eyes" by Owl City, AKA Adam Young.

Cary Brothers, Calvin Harris and Emily Haines, aren't too shabby either.

Harris showed what he was made of with his 2007 "I Created Disco." His latest creation, "Ready For The Weekend" (Columbia/Fly Eye), doesn't disappoint. The first songs — "The Rain," "Stars Come Out," "You Used To Hold Me" and the title tune — are first-rate dance tracks. And there's more to delight.

There's no reason to feel guilty for listening or dancing to Sally Shapiro's "My Guilty Pleasure" (Paper Bag). If you loved the 2007 domestic edition of her "Disco Romance" debut, then you're sure to find something to like among these 1980s-influenced selections. Standout cuts include "Swimming Through The Blue Lagoon," "Looking At The Stars," "Love In July," "Moonlight Dance" and "Save Your Love."

A 1980s influence can also be heard on "Ocean Eyes" (Universal) by Owl City (AKA Adam Young, who apparently owes "everything to Jesus Christ"). Sparkly and giddy, Young's songs bubble over like a frothy electro beverage that quenches your thirst for beats and blips, but still leaves you parched. It could be the lyrics — Young likes his wordplay and he likes to keep it clean. Still, it's hard to resist shaking your

ass, I mean butt, to "Cave In," "Umbrella Beach," "Tidal Wave" and "Hello Seattle."

When Felix Da Housecat sings "we all wanna be Prince" in the song of the same name on "He Was King" (Nettwerk), I thought, "Well, in spite of the Purple One's uneven output of late, it sure beats being Michael Jackson." But a number of the songs don't sound like they come from the Twin Cities. They sound like they come from cities on the other side of the Atlantic. Just listen (and move) to "Plastik Fantastik," "Do We Move Your World" and the title cut to see if you agree.

Electroclash goddess Peaches — performing Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, Milwaukee — sounds like she grew on a tree in the same orchard as Felix. She even visits similar Euro-influenced territory on "I Feel Cream" (XL), on tracks such as "Lose You." But she mostly mines a house and hip-hop vein on the remainder of the album.

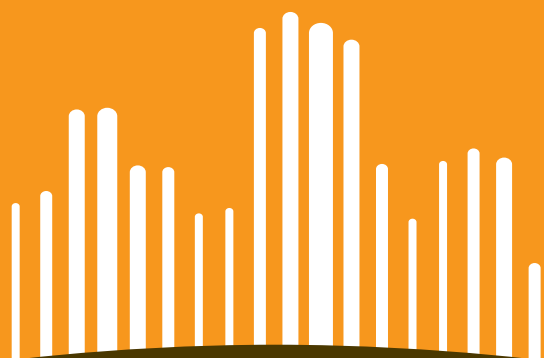
New discs by Simian Mobile Disco and Peter Bjorn and John illustrate the challenges of following up a well-received album. Easily one of the most infectious dance singles of 2006, "Young Folks" by Peter Bjorn and John and

the album from which it was drawn ("Writer's Block") set the bar high for the Swedish trio. "Living Thing" (Almost Gold/Star Time) may not have anything as irresistible as "Young Folks," but that doesn't mean it's a total loss. Whistles have been replaced by handclaps on the hip-shaking "It Don't Move Me" and the foot-stomping "Nothing To Worry About." The zigzagging beats on the title track, "The Feeling," "I Want You!" and "Lay It Down" seem to dare you just to keep the pace.

Brilliant dance numbers such as "It's The Beat" and "Hustler" helped make Simian Mobile Disco's "Attack Decay Sustain Release" an unforgettable experience. Does "Temporary Pleasure" (Wichita) live up to expectations? It comes close on "Audacity of Huge," "Off The Map," "Turn Up The Dial" and "Pinball."

The EP "To Swift Mars" (Polyvinyl) by Cale Parks has an otherworldly chill-out vibe that could be just what the DJ ordered following a night of hardcore dancing. Although "One At A Time" requires more than just sitting still.

Thank you for reading the premiere issue of the Wisconsin Gazette!



88NINE

RADIO MILWAUKEE

DIVERSE MUSIC FOR A DIVERSE CITY

Force be with her



Sarah Palin stars in the "Female Force" comic book.

By Lisa Neff
WIG Staff Writer

Oh, you betcha, "Female Force" is a fun read.

From Bluewater Comics, the newest issue in the "Female Force" series collects the life stories of Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, Michelle Obama and Caroline Kennedy.

A Fox News critic would look at the all-American cover of the four women and see a left-wing conspiracy of sorts: Three Democrats, one Republican, what gives? Three liberals, one conservative, so where is Condoleezza Rice?

But this issue of "Female Force" focuses on four women in politics who are shaping the future; Rice helped trash the past.

"Each of these women has a powerful life story to share," says Bluewater president Darren Davis. "And each has made a significant contribution to the political and cultural landscape."

The comic book — written by Neal Bailey and illustrated by Vinnie Tartamella, Ryan Howe, Joshua LaBello, Mike Adams, Michelle Davies, Kirsty Swan, Malachi Sharlow, Wilson Ramos and Jaymes Reed — does not cast Clinton, Obama, Palin and Kennedy as superheroes in an all-female Justice League, but it does have super fun with their life stories and the 2008 presidential campaign.

For chuckles, there's the comic book John McCain singing "Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran" before a befuddled crowd; there's

Palin, holding a knife bloodied from carving a moose, saying, "Doggone it! Why won't the press leave me alone? Is this a good angle?" and there's Clinton trying to hoist the "fabled glass ceiling."

For education, readers get flashbacks of the women's lives — mostly flashbacks to events of professional and political significance. But there are also moments and

activities from their earlier years — Clinton's days in the Brownies, Palin's days on the Wasilla High School basketball team, Obama's days practicing piano and Kennedy's days as a young reporter (Did you know she wrote about the death of Elvis Presley for Rolling Stone?).

Bailey, writing at the end of the Kennedy bio, explains his effort: "It's my hope and aim



"Female Force" — comic book superstars Sarah Palin, Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton and Caroline Kennedy.

that these biographies, with a little touch of humor, have made you take a closer look at people you've never met or maybe judged from afar...

Knowledge will protect you. Dig deep. Even if you're a 40-year-old dude in his basement reading this for kicks."

The comic itself doesn't

dig deep, but it might inspire a reader to pick up a heftier bio or autobiography.

And as for kicks, there are plenty.

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PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

The cast of "Rent" at the Marcus Center.

'Rent' takes short-term lodging

Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp and Gwen Stewart are reprising the roles they originated on Broadway in "Rent: The Broadway Tour" at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

The show will have a week-long engagement, from Nov. 24-29.

Set in NYC's East Village, "Rent" is a modern take on the classic Puccini opera, "La

Boheme." It tells the story of a group of young artists learning to survive, falling in love, finding their voices and living for today.

The Milwaukee engagement is presented by Broadway Across America — Milwaukee and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts as part of Time Warner Cable Broadway at the Marcus Center. —LN.

Boulevard's 'Bette and Boo' offers different holiday slant

By Paul Masterson

WIG Contributing Writer

Boulevard Ensemble Theatre continues its 23rd season with gay playwright Christopher Durang's "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," opening Nov. 24.

The Obie Award-winning comedy provides a great antidote for holiday sentiment, says Boulevard artistic director Mark Bucher.

Unlike traditional holiday entertainment fare, "Bette and Boo" bears wincingly harsh witness to the dark secrets that family events can unveil. Durang wryly deconstructs such social and seasonal rituals as the classic Thanksgiving dinner with the in-laws. Audiences' memories, fond and otherwise, are inevitably jarred.

The play has a seasonal feel, albeit wrapped in wrinkled, tension-patterned paper and tied in a constricting

bow. Still, it's a tribute with genuine heart to family and, in particular, to mothers.

Bucher, who directs the production, says "Bette and Boo" is the perfect vehicle for his theater's multifaceted mission, which includes representing LGBT sensitivities and issues.

The play is ultimately a gay child's story. The quiet, shy and intellectual Skippy, the son of Bette and Boo, immerses himself in great literature to escape the chaos and calamity of his family's dysfunction.

"You don't get gayer than Christopher Durang," Bucher says. "It's an autobiographical work. It's about being the outsider, and that's part of our lives."

"Bette and Boo" also demonstrates Boulevard's mission to bring relevant, thought-provoking theater to Milwaukee. As an educational

Theater
WIGOUT

tool, the play provides leading roles for the three young actors who are among the 10-person ensemble.

"(This play is) full of intelligence, artifice and wit," Bucher says, "and, it's the opportunity for young actors to learn an important script."

The play's 33 scenes play out ironically at traditional settings — holiday gatherings, a wedding, a honeymoon, a funeral. Mismatched parents, aloof grandparents, neurotic aunts, a speech-impaired uncle, a theology-impaired priest and a culturally distant doctor all struggle hilariously against each other's shadows to strike a pose of social normalcy.

The Boulevard's limited space and budget require the kind of precision stagecraft for which the theater is known. Sparse sets and creative use of minimal resources have become the Bay View venue's hallmark.

Bucher is an expert at traffic control and the ability to create illusions.

"The actors' entrances and exits throughout the play are the scenery," he says.

"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" runs Nov. 24 through Jan. 2 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. in Milwaukee's Bay View.

For ticket and performance information, go to www.boulevardtheatre.com or call 414-744-5757.

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Arts and entertainment

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080.

Men's Voices Milwaukee Chorus, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Shorewood, 414-964-1513.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., 414-383-3727.

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, 414-229 4758, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, 53209, 414-265-8500.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St. SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 818 S. Water St. (Hot Water Bar), www.shoreline-milw.org.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-276-8787.

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com, 414-534-5645.

Community groups

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvsgays.com.
BWMT Milwaukee (Black & White Men Together), P.O. Box 1091475, Milwaukee, 53209, 414-463-5359.

Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 212, 414-225-0244.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, Milwaukee, 53201.

FORGE, PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201, www.forge-forward.org.

G/L Community Center, 904 S. 1st St., 414-643-1652.

G/L Community Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201, 414-643-1652.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W. Court St., 414-272-9442.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, 316 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 215, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com.

LOC/Women of color, P.O. Box 93594, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-263-1631.

Log Cabin Republicans, P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, 53201, 414-755-1954.

Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelgbthist.org.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 414-299-9198.

Pridefest, 315 W. Court St., Suite 203, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Pride Parade, www.prideparademke.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-258-8834, www.washingtonheightsrainbow.org.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., Room 112, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

Business

Gay & Lesbian Tavern Guild, 209 E. National Ave.

Health

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., 414-273-1991.

BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 414-272-2144.

Diverse and Resilient, 1240B E. Brady St., 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Galano Club, 315 W. Court Street, Suite 201-A, 414-276-6936.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 414-272-6199.
Walker's Point

Community Clinic, 611 W. National Ave., Suite 400, 414-384-1400.

Religion/Spirituality
Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 414-344-1600.

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 414-344-1746.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 W. Lloyd St., 414-476-3189.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 414-273-5257.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 414-962-9190.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 414-383-1100.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Place.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 414-271-1340.

Sports

Front Runners, 414-332-1527.

GAMMA-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1900, www.milwaukeegamma.com

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 414-616-3716.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clarke St., 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, http://milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 414-350-7147, www.ssbmilwaukee.com.

Youth/Education

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 414-227-2550, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, 414-265-8500.

LGBT Resource Center a UWM, U.W.-M. Student Union, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, 53201, 414-229-

4116.

Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Marquette Univ. Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-223-3220.

Rainbow Alliance at UWM, 220 E. Kenwood Ave., 414-229-6555.

UWM LGBT Resource Center; UWM Union WG89, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

KENOSHA

Religion/Spirituality

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 262-656-0544.

MADISON

Arts and entertainment

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700.

Community groups

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org.

Politics

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State, Suite 500, 608-441-0143, www.actionwisconsin.com.

Sports

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org/

Madison Volleyball Group, 608-251-8716

RACINE

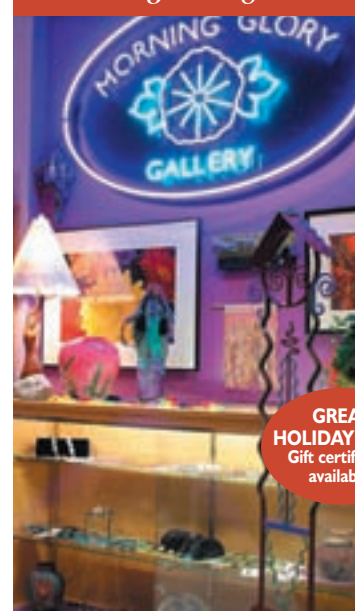
Community groups

LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

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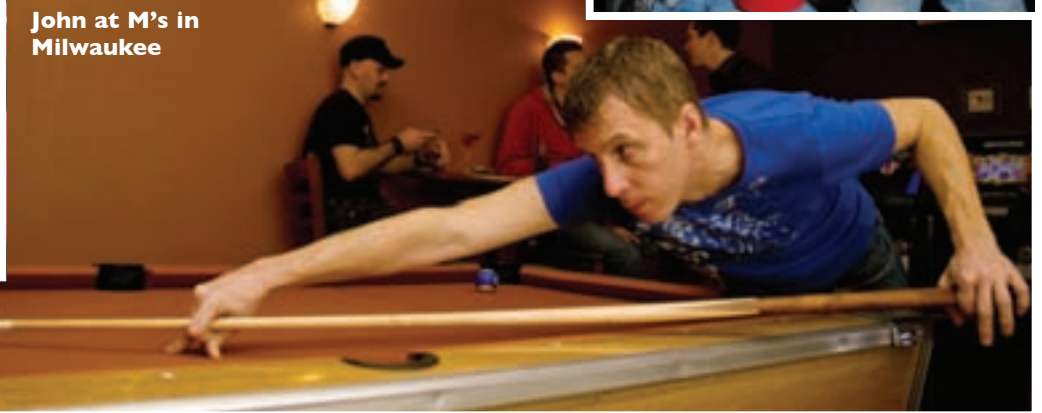
Members of the Castaways celebrate at Kruz.



Mark, James, Louiegee and Joe at M's



Bob and a fellow Castaway member at Kruz in Milwaukee



John at M's in Milwaukee

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Calendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THURSDAY

Nov. 19

"Thread Baring: A Portrayal of Masculinity One Stitch at a Time," UW-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery, 22000 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee.

4 p.m., Eric Himan "Out in the Music Industry" workshop, UW-Milwaukee Union 198, Multicultural Student Lounge.

9 p.m., Eric Himan performance, UW-Milwaukee Union Basement.

FRIDAY

Nov. 20

11:30 a.m., the 20th Annual Women and Public Policy Luncheon, Italian Community Center: 631 E. Chicago St., Milwaukee. Info: www.womensfund.com.

6 p.m., Transgender Awareness Week program, "The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert," Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-271-2656.

7:30 p.m., RSVP Presents Paul Rudnick's "The New Century," Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

7:30 p.m., screening "Prayers for Bobby," LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Info: 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewisc.org, execdirector@lgbtsewisc.org.

SATURDAY

Nov. 21

5:30 p.m., Transgender Day of Remembrance candlelight vigil and potluck, Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., Milwaukee.

7:30 p.m., RSVP Presents Paul Rudnick's "The New Century," Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

8 p.m., Madison Gay Video Club, "Eating Out: All You Can Eat" and "Muscleheads." www.mgvc.org. Milwaukee Holiday

▶ SAVE THE DATE

SHOREWOOD SHOPWALK DEC. 5

Shorewood's annual Holiday Shopwalk Dec. 5 — from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. — kicks off the holiday season with free trolley rides, special offers and complimentary refreshments from local merchants, strolling carolers and a visit from Santa. The signature part of the event is an ice-carving exhibition featuring professional carvers along Oakland Avenue and Capitol Drive. Information: www.shorewoodwi.com or 414-962-7002.

Parade, downtown Milwaukee. Info: 262-377-5935.

Holiday Art Fair, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison.

SUNDAY

Nov. 22

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Jolly Holly Folly, rotunda of the Milwaukee Center, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Info: 800-359-9272, ext 1545, www.arcw.org/event.htm.

MONDAY

Nov. 23

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival, through Jan. 1, downtown Milwaukee. Info: 414-220-4700.

TUESDAY

Nov. 24

7 p.m., Milwaukee Women's Singing in Sacred Circle, Unity Church of Milwaukee, 1717 N. 73rd St., Wauwatosa. Info: lesbianalliance.org.

12:30 p.m., Twisted Stitchers meeting, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 25

1 p.m., Banned Books forum, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

7:30 p.m., Christopher Durang's "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" opens, Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. Info: 414-744-5757.

THURSDAY

Nov. 26

Through Nov. 29, Holiday Invitational Tournament, various locations. Info: www.hitmilwaukee.org.

FRIDAY

Nov. 27

8 a.m., Thanksgiving Belly Dance Party, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

Holiday Invitational Tournament, various locations. Info: www.hitmilwaukee.org.

SATURDAY

Nov. 28

8 a.m., Joe Steiff presents "Golden Corral — a Growing Up Story," Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-3727.

Holiday Invitational Tournament, various locations. Info: www.hitmilwaukee.org.

4:30 p.m., annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner hosted by Black & White Men Together, Brew City Bears, Lesbian Alliance, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, PFLAG, SAGE/Milwaukee, Plymouth Church and Rainbow Families, Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire, Milwaukee. Info: 414-224-0517.

SUNDAY

Nov. 29

Holiday Invitational Tournament, various locations. Info: www.hitmilwaukee.org.

ONGOING

Through...

Through Jan. 2, Christopher Durang's "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. Info: 414-744-5757.

Through December, an art exhibit based on Bruce H. Joffe's book, "A Hint of Homosexuality? Gay and Homoerotic Imagery in American Print Advertising," is at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine. Info: 262-664-4100, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

Through December, "Fly Over Country" an exhibit featuring local artists Jeffery Kerr, Kristopher Pollard, Renee Staech and Anthony Weber. Racine Arts Council, 316 Sixth St., Racine. Info: 262-635-0261, jessika@racineartscouncil.org.

Thursday

7 p.m., AA Living Sober; 7 p.m., Crystal Meth Anonymous, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Spiritual Wellness Program: Being in the Now, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

Friday

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water

St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-7593, www.shoreline-milw.org.

Saturday

9 a.m., Frontrunners Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee. Info: 262-285-7645.

6 p.m., AA The Women's Light Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

Sunday

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee. Info: www.iagsdc.org/creamcity/#Calendar.

7 p.m., AA The Big Book Meeting, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

Monday

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

Tuesday

5 p.m., AA Over 40, and 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

Wednesday

7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org. — LN.

TUESDAY

Dec. 1

12:30 p.m., Twisted Stitchers meeting, LGBT Resource Center, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 2

4:30 p.m., Candid Conversations: Spirituality and Sexuality, UWM LGBT Resource Center, Milwaukee. Info: uwmevent@uwm.edu.

THURSDAY

Dec. 3

7 p.m., Milwaukee Gamma Inc. cribbage. Info: 414- 530-1886. milwaukeegamma.com.

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Cuvee Lounge, 177 N. Broadway, 414-225-9800, www.cuveemke.com.
Cocktail lounge.
City Lights Chill & Grill, 111 W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441, www.citylightschillmilwaukee.com.
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Fluid, 819 S. 2nd St., 414-643-5843, fluid.gaymke.com.
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Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield Ave., 414-672-7988, www.harbor-room.com.
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Kathy's Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott St., 414-647-2673.

Neighborhood bar.
Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-5789.
Neighborhood bar.
La Cage, 801 S. 2nd St., 414-383-8330, www.lacagemke.com.
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M's, 1101 S. 2nd St., 414-383-8900. Piano bar.
MOCT, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., 414-273-6628, www.themoct.com.
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Out 'n About and Mona's Restaurant, 1407 S. 1st St., 414-643-0377, www.m-o-n-a-s.com.
Nightclub/restaurant.
Purr Night Club, 3945 N. 35th St., 414-442-7007. Nightclub.
Rainbow Lounge, 1734 W. Greenfield Ave., 414-389-9656. Cocktail lounge.
Red Light at Trocadero, 1758 N. Water St., 414-272-0205. Dining/dance.
Redroom, 1875 N. Humboldt Ave., 414-224-7666. Neighborhood bar.
This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192, www.thisisitbar.com.
Cocktail lounge.
Three, 722 N. Milwaukee St., 414-225-0003. Dance club.
Triangle, 135 E. National

Ave., 414-383-9412, triangle.gaymke.com.
Neighborhood bar/video.
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Plan B, 924 Williamson St., www.planbmadison.com.
Nightclub.
Shamrock, 117 W. Main St., 608-255-5029, www.shamrockbar.com.
Neighborhood bar/dining.
Woof's, 114 King St., 608-204-6222, www.woofsmadison.com.
Sports bar.

RACINE

Jo'Dee's International, 2139 Racine St., 262-634-9804, www.jodeesintl.com.
Neighborhood bar.
To get listed e-mail managingeditor@wisconsinngazette.com.



ARIES: Keep setting yourself up for a good time. You're about to find out that the best things happen when we lighten up and allow what's inside us to lead the way.

TAURUS: You may have the right to do what you're doing, but your motives are a little off. I'm not sure you want to examine your reasons for needing to make this point.

GEMINI: Should I stay or should I go routines are bound to continue for a while.

CANCER: You've stirred up a hornet's nest. The side effects of one false move have trickled into the cracks of your dream world. If the fur isn't flying, give it time.

LEO: Trips to nowhere and any opportunity to get out of your head will lead you to people and experiences that

Stargaze

BY MINERVA

expand your sense of self.

VIRGO: Ghosts from the past have stirred up memories that you thought were gone for good. Forgetting is easier when you've cleared the forgiveness hurdle.

LIBRA: If you're worried about losing yourself to another's problem, too much has changed for you to fall into that trap ever again.

SCORPIO: Whoever you're not being open with has no idea where you're coming from. If you want to change things, you need to think about being more direct.

SAGITTARIUS: When the answers don't come through

the regular channels it's best to look for them elsewhere. You'd just as soon take off on a Vision Quest, but you don't need to go that far.

CAPRICORN: Raising the bar or trading up has opened the space for people to expect more from you. That's OK; you're fully prepared to give this whatever it takes.

AQUARIUS: Too many things call you to wonder how you got into this mess. It looks to me like you gave someone more credit than they deserve and are paying a high price.

PISCES: Meaningful connections have been few and far between. Between your trust issues and the fact that no one interests you, it's easy to see why. Don't obsess over it; make the best of being alone.

— from AP

CALL (414) 961-3240 to place an ad today.

Rants, Raves & Other Remarks

BEEP, BEEP

The new gay car should be the Prius.

WHAT NEXT?

Reading online the other day, I came across an article about an emerging "gay right." No kidding. I know the saying is "We are everywhere," but

Wisconsin Gazette .com

how can we be over there? Crazy.

CHATTING WITH THE MISINFORMED

So I had this conversation this other day with this guy who told me that a Yankees fan told him that two players — not to be named — are having a relationship with each other. The Yankees fan said he didn't care what was going on, as long as the Yankees won the World Series. This guy, not knowing I'm gay, said, "Come on, don't you care about moral-

ity? You'll support players like that?" So, I said, "Dude, you know I'm gay, right?" And he said, "Well, I didn't used to think that was OK, but then I heard that most serial killers are gay because they've been treated so bad. And so, I thought, its wrong to treat people bad. People can do whatever they want." And that's tolerance.

PERSPECTIVE

Have you noticed that some straight people can get all wiggled out when they think about gay sex and gay romance, but they assume that anybody and everybody wants to see them necking in the movies and making out

in bars?

BOWIE BOOK

Anybody read the new David Bowie biography? Is it any good?

OBAMA OK

Anyone who doubted that the Obama administration would act on our behalf should be feeling sheepish these days.

MMMM, GOOD

Can we really say anything here? I still eat Campbell's chicken noodle soup for lunch, and I love it.

GLORY DAYS OVER?

I watched this new-to-dvd movie the other day — totally juvenile, made for those who are 30 going on 11.

And in one of the too-many-to-count anti-gay scenes, this guy goes into a bathroom and steps up to a glory hole. So my question: Do they really still exist?

IN LOVE

I can live without my Facebook, but not without my TMZ.com. Did you see the item on Britney Spears

passing through security at LAX with her Big Gulp soda? Well, I assume it was soda. Maybe she's an undercover federal marshal. And just how old is Eddie Van Halen.

WHY BOTHER?

I read Washington couples won domestic partnership rights. And I thought, "Why bother?"

WIG 411:

Post your anonymous rants, raves and rages. E-mail managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com or use the online form at www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

Compiled By Gregg Shapiro

Nov. 19, Thursday

RSVP presents Paul Rudnick's "The New Century" through Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second. Call 414-383-3727.

Rock legend John Fogerty is at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Nov. 20, Friday

Milwaukee Chamber Theater's production of "Moon Over the Brewery" runs through Dec. 13 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

The Sweet performs their hits "Fox On The Run" and "Ballroom Blitz," among others, at 9 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents Mason Jennings at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Nov. 21, Saturday

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes potty-mouthed electro goddess Peaches, with Amanda Blank, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

If you missed Mason Jennings last night, you can catch him at 9 p.m. at Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582:00.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, has LMFAO, Paradise Girls and Space Cowboy, beginning at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

Paul Cebal Tomorrow

On stage WIGOUT

Sound and Robin Pluer perform at 8 p.m. at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell. Call 414-276-7288.

Nov. 22, Sunday

Steve Forbert and Faces keyboardist Ian McLagan are at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

Nov. 24, Tuesday

"Rent," featuring Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp from the original Broadway production and film adaptation, opens tonight and runs through Nov. 29 at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Bring your blessed earplugs when The Jesus Lizard plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Quadracci Powerhouse Theater's production of "The Lady With All The Answers" by David Rambo, based on the life and letters of Ann Landers, opens tonight and runs through Dec. 20 at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents "Cheech & Chong Light Up America" at 7 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Nov. 25, Wednesday

Reverend Raven and The Chainsmoking Alter Boys and Hounds Tooth are at Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell,

at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, welcomes The White Tie Affair; Every Avenue, Stereo Skyline and Runner Runner at 7 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

Nov. 27, Friday

Skylight Opera Theater presents "Plaid Tidings," featuring The Plaids bringing harmony to a discordant world, with hits from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as "plaid-erized" holiday standards, opening tonight and running through Jan. 3 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Riper than ever and ready to rock, the original line-up of The Cranberries returns at 8 p.m. to The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell, hosts a Johnny Cash tribute with Liam Ford, Mark Shurilla and the Greatest Hits, Tommy Greywolf and Jayne Taylor at 8 p.m. Call 414-276-7288.

The Glamour Kills Tour with All Time Low, We The Kings, Hey Monday and Friday Night Boys stops in at The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, at 7:15 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, welcomes the Teen Idols tour starring Peter Noone, Mickey Dolenz and Mark Lindsay, tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

Here Comes The Night performs at 8 p.m. at Underground at Intercontinental Milwaukee,

139 E. Kilbourn. Call 414-276-8686

Nov. 28, Saturday

Camera Obscura performs at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, with Papercuts, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Nov. 29, Sunday
Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes The Books at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663

Nov. 30, Monday

Brett Dennen plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. 4th, with Grace Potter & The Nocturnals at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Dec. 3, Thursday

The Rave, 2401 W. Wisconsin, has Weezer, Jack's Mannequin and Motion City Soundtrack, at 8 p.m. Call 414-342-RAVE.
Majestic, 115 King in Madison, presents Boombox at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

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REAL ESTATE

VIEW FROM THE BAY

Bay View offers affordability and community spirit

By Kerrie Kennedy

WIG Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE — When physician Kevin Edwards and his partner moved to Milwaukee 15 years ago, they decided to look in Bay View after some recommendations from friends.

"I don't know why it draws so many gay people, other than the fact that it's an older neighborhood and the houses here are relatively inexpensive," Edwards says. "I guess it's like a lot of other communities — the gays move in, fix up the houses and gentrify the neighborhood."

Located along Lake Michigan just south of the downtown area, Bay View — also known as "Gay View" — was once a company town, home to the Milwaukee Iron Company (also known as the Bay View Rolling Mill).

According to Bay View Historical Society president Kathy Mulvey, most of the estimated 1,500 ironworkers who lived in Bay View were immigrants.

"At first they were mainly from the British Isles, but then they came from all over Europe, which made it a very unique community," Mulvey says.

According to Bay View Homes Realtor Karen Block, much of the neighborhood's housing stock reflects its



Volunteers plant annuals at the Bay View fire station on Kinnickinnic Avenue.

PHOTO: KEVIN EDWARDS

roots as a working class neighborhood for factory workers.

"We have a combination of Victorians, bungalows and Old-Style houses, which are basically stripped-down Victorians," Block says. "They don't have built-in china cabinets or any of the frills you'd see in a Victorian."

But frills can be added, especially when you're paying \$215,000 for a four-bedroom, two-bath remodeled home, which recently sold for list price after two days on the market.

Prices in Bay View — about \$90,000-\$450,000 — are down about 10 percent from last year, says Block, but things are moving quickly if they're priced right.

"Bay View is a very desirable area and people want to be here."

Bounded roughly by Chase to the lake, Beecher to Howard, Bay View attracts buyers who want to be close to the lake and walking distance to many conveniences. While the recession has affected the commercial district in Bay View — the local bookstore Broad Vocabulary closed last year — there are a number of food-related businesses in the neighborhood, including restaurants,

coffee shops, bakeries and a popular farmers' market. More than just a place to buy fruits, vegetables, jellies, honey, baked goods, coffee, fudge, crackers and spreads, the farmer's market also serves as a community meeting spot.

"This has become the place to come and talk to your neighbors," says Mulvey, who also runs the farmer's market. "People come here and spend the whole day. We didn't realize how hungry the people of Bay View were for a meeting place."

They're also interested in eating well. "I think the farmer's market has gotten people interested in local, sustainable foods, but it's also a function of the people who are moving in here," Mulvey says. "There are a number of forces that are making Bay View especially prominent in that field."

From the neighborhood's

popular Outpost Natural Foods (a food cooperative that sells natural foods and locally grown produce) to

'Some of the most accepting people I've ever met are in Bay View.'

Sweet Water (a commercial fish farm operating out of an industrial building in Northwestern Bay View) The Bay View Neighborhood Association (whose goal is "The Greening of Bay View") to the Bay View Garden & Yard Society (a gay and gay-friendly group that created and maintains a community produce garden), Bay View

may seem like an unlikely place to lead the edge of change. But then again, you have to understand its residents.

Whether they're transplants, such as Block, who sold her condo in Chicago two years ago and purchased a single-family home in Bay View, out gay couples such as Edwards and his partner, or part of a fifth-generation Bay View family (not uncommon), everyone seems to be on equal footing in this neighborhood.

"Often, when you have that kind of old, close-knit community, they're not very welcoming, but that's not the case in Bay View," Mulvey says. "I think it really speaks to who the people of Bay View are."

Regardless of their roots, the people of Bay View seem to be influenced by its history.

At the center of that history is a woman named Buehla Brinton, an early resident who taught Bay View immigrants, operated the community's first public library out of her home, built a neighborhood tennis court in her yard and turned her home into a cultural center for residents to come together.

"She would have Italian night and the Italians would bring food, Polish night and the Poles would bring the food, Welsh night, Czech night, etc.," Mulvey says. "She brought all those people together and it really shaped Bay View. That may be where the all openness comes from."

It's been a welcome change for Edwards, who grew up in a conservative community in Iowa.

"Some of the most accepting people I've ever met are in Bay View," he says.

Edwards, president and founder of the Bay View Garden & Yard Society, recalls Bay View next page

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{ Letters }

Continued from page 8

WARM WELCOME

I warmly welcome the Wisconsin Gazette to our community. Dane County's LGBT citizens are ourselves, our family members, our friends, our neighbors and our associates. They are important leaders in our community on many issues.

I hope that your new voice of the Wisconsin Gazette will not only keep them informed about their public officials, but their public officials aware of them and issues they face. We've got lots to do together!

*Dane County Executive
Kathleen Falk*

INAUGURATION DAY

First and foremost, congratulations! It is my honor to write this letter for the inaugural issue of the Wisconsin Gazette. The Gazette will add an important new dimension to covering Milwaukee and Wisconsin's vibrant LGBT community.

All of us who care about advancing justice and fairness in Wisconsin owe the people who started the Gazette a debt of gratitude for starting a new publication during difficult economic times. It is a bold and important step that deserves our attention and support.

I am very proud of my record as an elected official on issues that affect my friends and neighbors in the LGBT community. One of the things I am most proud of is the recent enactment of the Wisconsin domestic partnership registry.

My colleagues and I in the Legislature passed this important provision as part of the state budget in early summer. Since August, when the reg-

istry went into effect, more than 1,200 couples around Wisconsin have become part of the state registry. While the registry falls short of providing the level of protections that married couples are afforded, it does provide state recognition of loving, committed couples. We can be very proud that Wisconsin is the first state in the Midwest to legislatively enact protections for same-sex couples.

Again, I congratulate the Gazette on this exciting venture. I look forward to reading many editions of this publication in the future. If anyone has any questions or concerns about state government please do not hesitate to give my office a call at 888-534-0019 or contact me via e-mail at richards@legis.wi.gov. It is my pleasure to serve you.

*Wisconsin State Rep.
Jon Richards*

GETTING THE WORD OUT

As executive director of three business improvement districts in Shorewood and Milwaukee's East Side, I welcome the Wisconsin Gazette. Our LGBT neighbors are a vital part of our community and our businesses benefit tremendously from their patronage. Even though major newspapers are in decline right now, our businesses still need to get the word out about their products and services, and community newspapers like the Gazette provide the vehicle to do just that. I wish the Gazette many years of success.

Jim Plaisted

WELCOME WIG

We are among of the lucky Wisconsinites who knew and counted as friends Ron Geiman, the editor of InStep, and Terry Boughner and Jerry Johnson, the editors of Wisconsin Light. These publications were important sources of news and information that was of great value to the LGBT community in Wisconsin. With that history, we welcome the publication of a new source of valuable information for our community, the Wisconsin Gazette.

The Wisconsin Gazette in their mission statement promises "to inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news, commentary and political and cultural issues." This would truly add value to the already vibrant Wisconsin LGBT community.

So a hearty welcome to the Wisconsin Gazette. We wish you well.

*Robert J. Starshak
and Ross W. Draeger*

PROGRESSIVE PROGRESS

Hurray for a new voice in our community.

The Wisconsin Gazette will fuel my desire to continue to hold and read a newspaper — one with progressive content and analysis, new ideas and an up-to-date message regarding LGBT issues.

I especially look forward to learning more about current gay rights legislation and candidate positions, and also what LGBT organizations are up to in the community. Let the commentary begin.

*Jackie Boynton, attorney
and progressive activist*

Bay View continued

the time the group landscaped the local firehouse.

"The firemen were a little funny about it at first, when they found out we were gay," Edwards says. "But after they saw the work we did, they were very excited. Now they greet us every time they

see us."

Edwards is the first to admit Bay View is not known for its beautiful gardens. Nor is it known for its yards, which tend to be small. And he's not actually much of a gardener, when it really comes down to it.

"I don't think gardening is really my thing," he says. "I'm

the least knowledgeable of anyone in the group."

But he is committed to the betterment of the community of Bay View.

And in his opinion, that's all that matters.

*Kerrie Kennedy is a veteran
real estate writer.*

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PHOTO: JASON SMITH

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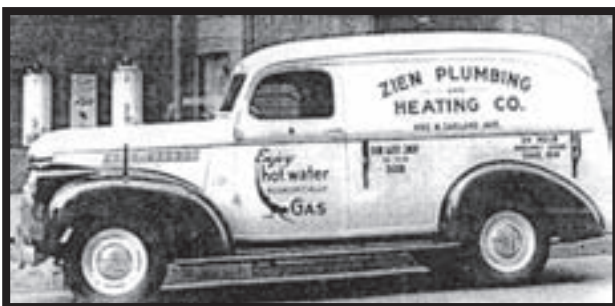
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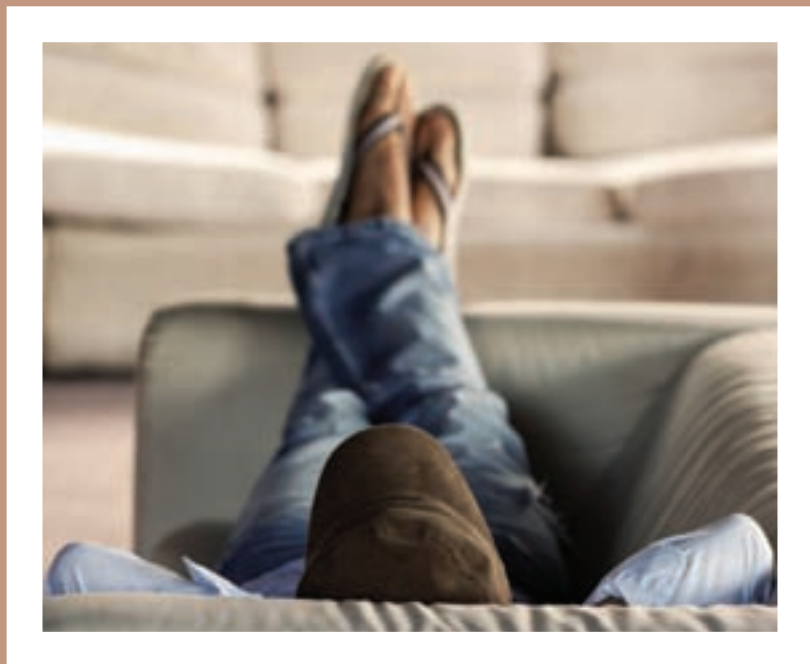
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Happiness. Raymond Carver

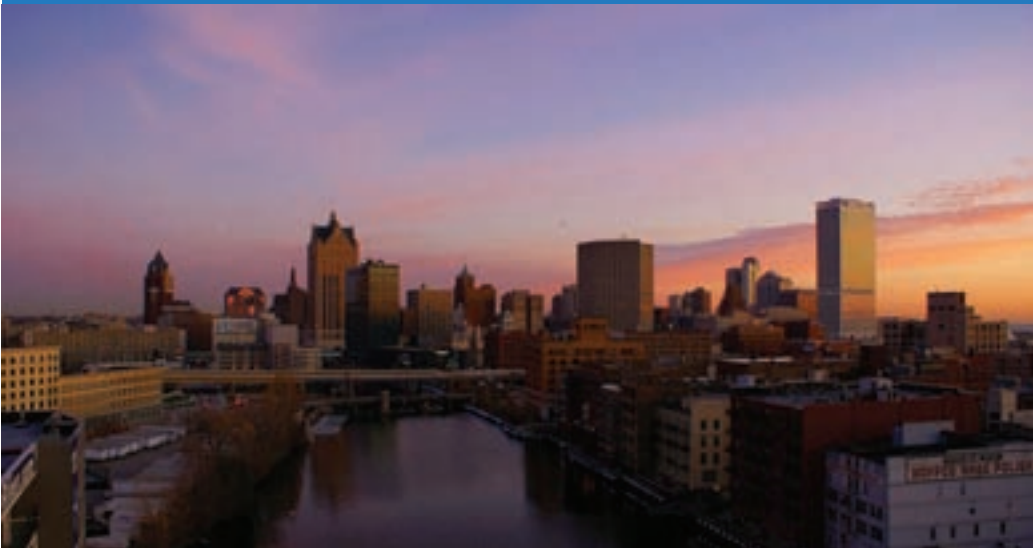
So early it's still almost dark out. I'm near the window with coffee, and the usual early morning stuff that passes for thought.

When I see the boy and his friend walking up the road to deliver the newspaper. I think if they could, they would take each other's arm. It's early in the morning, and they are doing this thing together.

They come on, slowly. The sky is taking on light, though the moon still hangs pale over the water.

Such beauty that for a minute death and ambition, even love, doesn't enter into this.

Happiness. It comes on unexpectedly. And goes beyond, really, any early morning talk about it.



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